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NO. 7869 MONDAY, MAY 14, 1990/SHAWWAL 19, 1410 AH 22 PAGES 150 FILLS

Philippine 'Reds' kill Clark airmen

Talks on bases today

MANILA, May 13. (AP) Suspected communist rebels killed two American servicemen near an air base today on the eve of talks between the United States and the Philippines on extending the lease on US military bases.

A third American said he managed to escape. The assailants also escaped, and there was no immediate claim of responsibility.

However, the Clark area has been a communist stronghold since the 1940s, and Sgt Robert Abad of the national police operations centre for central Luzon said authorities suspected communist rebels perpetrated the killings.

Qatar foreign minister quits

DOHA, Qatar, May 13. (AP) Abdullah Bin Khalifa Al Attiya resigned as foreign minister of Qatar today, the Qatar news agency reported.

The agency said the Amir, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani, accepted the resignation and named Mubarak Ali Al Khater as the new foreign minister.

Khater was minister of power and water. The agency gave no further detail and no reason was immediately available for the resignation.

But diplomatic observers noted that the change comes on the eve of a meeting of foreign ministers of the 22-member Arab League to prepare for a pan-Arab summit conference.

The foreign ministers are holding their preparatory meeting on May 22 in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad to prepare for the summit where the issue of the Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel and perceived Israeli threats to Iraq are to be prominent.

Atiya was named Qatari foreign minister

less than a year ago.

Both Attiya and Khater entered the cabinet for the first time in that reshuffle which took place in August 1989.

Before Attiya's appointment, foreign affairs were handled by a minister without portfolio from among the members of the ruling Al Thani family.

QNA said the Amir has asked the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture, Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassem Bin Jabr Al Thani, to double as acting minister of power and water.



UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan (left) is welcomed by Japanese Crown Prince Naruhito (right) upon his arrival at Tokyo International Airport.

Uganda troops raid IICF Officials held

KAMPALA, May 13. (Reuters) Ugandan troops have searched the Kampala office of the Kuwait-based International Islamic Charitable Foundation (IICF) and detained four members of its staff, IICF sources said here today.

The sources said the four, including the charity's regional director Ahmed Al Tam, were believed held at a military barracks and had not appeared in court.

The soldiers took away documents and told office workers their search was linked to the arrest last month of Ugandan Culture Minister Moses Ali, now awaiting trial on a treason charge, the sources said.

The four detained men were citizens of Arab countries, the sources said, without specifying which ones. The government has made no statement on the arrests.



Blast victim



Rumours dispelled

Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping (right) embraces visiting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak at the Great Hall of the People on Sunday in his first official engagement in nearly three months. (Reuters wirephoto)

See Page 8

India offers jobs

Kashmiris want freedom

ANANTNAG, India, May 13. (AP) The government's top trouble-shooter for the Muslim separatist movement came to Kashmir over the weekend offering jobs. His audience demanded freedom from Indian rule.

There seemed little chance of bridging the chasm between the people of Kashmir and the central government in New Delhi. Four decades of frustration and doubt over the region's future have erupted in a bloody separatist movement for an Islamic state.

George Fernandes, Minister for Kashmir Affairs in the 6-month-old government of Prime Minister V.P. Singh, spoke earnestly of the need to right economic wrongs to pacify a people whose sentiments he says have been hijacked by a few radical separatists.

But the men and women who crowded around him yesterday weren't interested in economics. Sometimes angrily, sometimes tearfully, they demanded the release of husbands, sons and brothers detained by Indian security forces on suspicion of belonging to militant groups that kill government employees, military men and suspected informers.

In Anantnag and Srinagar, men and women, without bidding, pull up sleeves and tunics to reveal deep bruises and sometimes bullet wounds they say were inflicted by Indian soldiers and paramilitary troops.

Their denunciations of the searches and the curfews imposed every night and sometimes around the clock for the last four months — are peppered with demands for independence from predominantly Hindu India.

Focus on Bases

Abad said the Americans, who were wearing civilian clothes, were shot about 8:30 pm (12:30 GMT) near a hotel a half mile (about a kilometre) from the main gate at US-run Clark air base, 50 kms (50 miles) north of Manila.

An air force spokesman, Maj. Wayne Crist, confirmed the killings but gave no details. He refused to release the names pending notification of relatives.

Philippine police identified the dead as Airman John Raven, 21, and Airman James Green, 22. They were assigned to the 8th aircraft genera-

tion squadron on temporary duty from Kunsan air base, 110 miles (177 kms) south of Seoul, South Korea.

A third American, Airman 1st Class Randall Moore, 23, told reporters he was haggling with a cab driver for a ride when he heard shots behind him.

"I ducked and ran back toward the hotel," Moore said. He said his unit arrived in the Philippines on May 3 for the annual Cope Thunder military exercise, which ends Friday.

Crist said the air force ordered all troops back to the base after the killing. Those living off-base were restricted to quarters, he said.

Armed Filipino troops were deployed around Clark after the killings, and police searched neighbourhoods known to be rebel strongholds.

It was the first attack on Americans at Clark since October 1987, when three Americans and a Filipino civilian were slain by rebels outside the base.

Including the two men killed today, eight Americans have died in politically motivated slayings in the Philippines since April 1989, US officials believe all the killings were carried out by communist rebels.

An American officer, who refused to give his name, said the airmen were waiting for a cab on Sanson Street near Clark when two or three Filipinos approached and shot them in the back of their heads with .45-calibre pistols. The rebels often use such guns in street attacks and fire at close range.

Asked whether it appeared the attackers were rebels, the officer replied: "What do you think? Pistols, two or three assailants, bases talk tomorrow."

US and Philippine officials had expressed concern the communist rebel New People's Army would try to kill Americans before the talks, which were to begin tomorrow on extending the lease on Clark, the Subic Bay naval base and four smaller facilities. The lease expires in September 1991.

On May 4, suspected rebels killed American marine Gunnery Sgt John Fredette near Subic, 80 kms (50 miles) west of Manila.

US officials barred off-post leaves for the 40,000 troops. Defence Department civilians and military dependents following Fredette's slaying but relaxed the ban a few days later.

Troops were allowed to leave their garages but were required to be on post and off the streets between midnight and 5:30 am.

The delegations for the base talks will be led by Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus and former US Assistant Secretary of Defence Richard Armitage, who arrived today from Japan.

The talks are considered an "exploratory" phase, after which the two sides will decide whether to enter formal negotiations.

Opposition to the bases has been growing because many Filipinos see them as an infringement on national sovereignty. Several groups planned demonstrations to demand the bases be closed.

Capital command chief Brig. Gen. Marino Filart said he will deploy at

(Continued on Page 2)



Actors in Cannes

Missile test site worries Senegal

WASHINGTON, May 13. (AP) President Abdou Diouf of Senegal is worried that Iraq is building a missile test range in his backyard, and he plans to share his concerns with President George Bush tomorrow.

Diouf, who arrived yesterday for a weeklong visit, wants to ask Bush about reports based on US intelligence information that Iraq wants to install a testing site for its long-range missiles in Mauritania, according to Senegalese officials.

Mauritania and Senegal broke diplomatic relations last August after a major border dispute flared into racial violence in which thousands of people were killed on both sides.

The Organisation of African Unity has been unsuccessful so far in efforts to mediate between the two West African neighbours, although it has averted an immediate threat of war. The United States has supported the mediation and tried to maintain its good ties with both countries.

Privately, however, US officials asked Mauritania whether it had agreed to let Iraq build a missile range on its territory. Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly said last month. Publicly Mauritania denied the reports, but Iraq has refused to confirm or deny them.

The United States is worried about Iraq's efforts to develop missiles that could carry lethal chemical weapons to Israel or Iran, two countries with which Iraq is technically at war.

Iraq does not have enough land to test the new missile but Mauritania does. The arid Muslim land bordering the Atlantic Ocean has an area of some 400,000 square miles (1.03 million square kms) and is sparsely populated.

Bourguiba told You are free

TUNIS, May 13. (Reuters) President Zein Al Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia had a reconciliation meeting with his ousted predecessor, Habib Bourguiba, at the presidential palace today and told him he was a free man.

It was their first encounter since the morning of November 7, 1987, when Ben Ali, then prime minister, removed Bourguiba from power on the grounds that he was senile and incapable of continuing to govern.

Bourguiba, now in his late 80s, had been President of Tunisia for more than three decades.

He has been living in retirement in a government house in his coastal hometown of Monastir. The authorities have vetted his visitors and restricted his freedom of movement.

But Ben Ali told him today: "You are free to go where you like, you can receive whoever you like and it is the duty of the administration to ensure your security," the official news agency TAP reported.

Official sources said Bourguiba had asked for the meeting on Saturday.



Shot in the neck

An Israeli settler whose car was stoned Sunday in the West Bank town of Kalkilya shot in the neck and critically wounded a 14-year-old Arab boy, Palestinian sources said. Samih Abu Sheikh was taken to Meir hospital in the nearby Israeli town of Kfar Saba with two bullet wounds in the neck, hospital and Palestinian sources said.

(See Page 13)

Saudis deny Yemen ploy

Kuwait praised as armies merge

RIYADH, May 13. (Agencies) Saudi Arabia today categorically denied press reports that Saudi Arabia is instigating Yemeni tribes on the border to undermine Yemeni unity which will be announced shortly.

A Saudi official told the Saudi news agency 'SPA' that such reports are untrue, and that his country was the first state to bless the unity of the two Yemens.

The official added that Saudi monarch King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz had officially announced at the time his country's blessing during the visit of Yemeni President Ali Abdulla Saleh to the city of 'Hafr Al Baten'.

Indian cyclone death toll 450

Worst in a decade

NEW DELHI, May 13. (AP)

The worst cyclone in more than a decade in India has gutted the economy of a rich agricultural region, leaving more than 100,000 farm animals dead and causing almost \$600 million in damage to crops, officials said today.

The death toll in the storm rose to 450 with the discovery today of 151 more bodies littered along the low-lying heavily-populated coast of Andhra Pradesh state, Indian media said.

Air force and navy helicopters meanwhile continued relief operations along the south Indian coast. So far, troops have distributed 340,000 food packets and sent hundreds of tankers filled with water to areas that were cut off from outside help for up to three days.

Several villages remained marooned and navy craft still could not reach them. News reports said hundreds of people were still being rescued from trees where they had taken refuge after the cyclone hit on Wednesday.

Andhra Pradesh's Chief Minister, M. Chenna Reddy, described the situation along the coast as "very bad."

"The damage has been colossal," he told reporters in Hyderabad, the capital of Andhra Pradesh.

In all, he said, 6.5 million people had been affected by the storm which at its peak tore into the farming region packing winds of up to 155 mph (250 kilometres per hour). Agricultural damage was estimated at \$588 million. More than 100,000 farm animals, mainly goats, cows and water buffaloes, died in the disaster.

Reports said sea water which had contaminated all of the fresh water wells along the coast had begun to recede today. But rain, forecast for much of the region, could set rescue work back, according to C. Arjun Rao, top relief officer in Andhra Pradesh.

Appeals went out across the nation today for money for storm victims.

(See also Page 2)

The source went on to say that Saudi Arabia strongly denies such false claims, and Saudi Arabia renews its supportive stance towards Yemen's unity as a step towards Arab solidarity.

Britain's Independent newspaper reported yesterday that Riyadh was paying Yemeni tribesmen to disrupt unification.

Meanwhile, South Yemen's Deputy Foreign Minister has praised his country's excellent relations with Kuwait and appreciated her mediation role in resumption of diplomatic ties between Aden and Washington.

Dr Shaiya Mohsen also commented, in press statements published in Kuwait today, Kuwait's attitude from the two parts of Yemen and her role, at difficult times, of bringing the two sides' position closer for unification.

The official, who is in Kuwait in the course of a tour of several countries, described the process of unification between the two Yemens as irreversible.

North and South Yemen have united their armed forces and agreed to withdraw them from their capitals in the latest swift move towards the historic merger due this month.

Officials and diplomats have widely predicted that a united Yemen would be declared before the end of May.

The Sanaa-based weekly 26 September quoted "reliable sources" today as saying the declaration would come during the last week of May, six months ahead of schedule. "All arrangements for this historic event in the life of Yemen and the Arab nation have been completed and there remain only minor executive measures," the paper said.

North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh said yesterday the security forces of both countries had been dissolved.

"Armies will be moved to border areas of the new state and there will be a larger role in the cities for a unified police force," one diplomat said.

Information ministers of North and South Yemen today signed a draft law on freedom of expression ahead of the planned merger of the two countries later this month, officials said.

13 more drop out

KUWAIT, May 13. (Kuna) Thirteen more candidates for the June 10 National Council elections decided today to drop out of the race.

An official source at the Interior Ministry said that this brings the total of candidates down to 544.

DAY BY DAY

WE frequently hear the terms "big people" and "small people." In our modern age, we should realise that big people are those who are truly big and those who are termed small are in accordance with their ability to serve their own society.

However, it is no longer acceptable that the "big people" inherit their greatness from their forefathers — like certain desert plants.

Contemporary life has produced many new concepts which must be appreciated to obviate mixing up of issues.

Zahed Matar

Three dead, 20 injured as Madagascar army foils dissidents coup attempt

ANTANANARIVO, Madagascar, May 13. (Agencies) Soldiers stormed the national radio station today and arrested a handful of dissidents who had occupied the facility and broadcast that the government was overthrown. The government later denied there had been a coup.

At least three people were killed and 20 wounded by bullets and shrapnel from grenades during fighting between the rebels and troops, hospitals

reported. The casualties were not confirmed by government officials.

Witnesses said the deaths and injuries appeared to take place among a crowd of about 5,000 people that gathered in front of the state-run Radio Madagascar station in Antananarivo, the capital, a few hours after the rebels occupied it this morning.

It was unclear whether the crowd supported the dissidents or was simply curious. But people outside the

station clashed with some troops as another detachment of soldiers stormed the building, firing tear-gas and exchanging gunfire with 11 rebels armed with automatic weapons, pistols and knives.

The station's director said eight of his employees had been taken hostage and were freed by the troops. No one died inside the building, he said.

The dissidents claimed to be members of a previously unknown group

calling itself the Republican Committee of Public Safety, sources said.

Gangs of youths roamed the streets of the capital later in the day, setting fire to two cars and hurling rocks through windows at the Justice Ministry and the American Cultural Centre, witnesses said.

A Madagascar opposition group in Paris quoted unidentified people on the island as saying that 50 people died when soldiers retook the radio

station. Witnesses said soldiers took about 10 dissidents from the building.

"There was fighting between the rebels and security forces that has reportedly ended," a US embassy official said on condition of anonymity in a telephone interview from Madagascar. "The crowd in front of the station has been dispersed."

Soldiers apparently fired tear-gas to break up the crowd between the station and the island's Hilton Hotel.

Benazir to visit Kuwait

TEHRAN, May 13. (Kuna): Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is expected to visit Iran on Tuesday on a one-day official visit, Iran news agency said last night.

The Pakistani prime minister will be accompanied by a group of high-ranking officials among them Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, the agency said.

In addition to Iran, Iran said Benazir is to visit Kuwait, Syria and Egypt.

Iran and Pakistan yesterday concluded a memorandum of understanding envisaging expansion of relations in economic, financial, commercial, agriculture, telecommunications, education, customs, manpower, oil, science and technology spheres.

The document was signed by Iranian Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs Dr. Mohsin Noor Bakshi and Pakistan's Minister of State for Finance and Economic Affairs Ehsanul Haque Piracha at the end of the two-day meeting of the Iran-Pakistan joint ministerial commission, in Islamabad.



Decorated van

A heavily decorated passenger van stands on a street corner in the northern Pakistani city of Rawalpindi. Pakistanis spend huge amounts of money to decorate their vehicles, transforming them into flamboyant works of folk art. (Reuters wirephoto)

Karachi to Khyber, vehicles are art

RAWALPINDI, May 13. (Reuters): Standing outside his shop on a bustling Rawalpindi side street, Mohammad Yousaf struggles to explain Pakistanis' extraordinary passion for decorating their motor vehicles.

"We love our women," he says finally. "We buy them gold jewellery to decorate themselves. For vehicle owners, the vehicles are almost as important as their women."

From the southern coastal plains of Sind to the mountains of the northwest frontier, few private trucks or buses lack some of the elaborate metalwork, extravagant painting and intricate ornamentation that transform mere vehicles into works of art.

Vehicles bodies are covered with paintings of landscapes, animals, flowers, stars and abstract designs. Verses from the Quran and classical poetry are rendered in stylised Arabic script.

Drivers' cabs are encased in sheets of finely patterned metal or wood. Model aircraft are attached to the bonnets and large metal superstructures, vaguely resembling crowns, are erected on the roofs.

There are rows of small coloured lights and bicycle reflectors, arrays of radio aerials, beads and bells.

"This is the traditional rural culture at work, expressing itself in a modern context through the themes of colour and speed," said Naeem Pasha, a Rawalpindi architect who runs an art gallery featuring more refined styles of painting.

"We urban intellectuals sometimes like to think we've left all that behind. But we can't turn our backs on tradition, and the trucks serve to remind us of that fact."

The cost of decoration a vehicle can be huge. A small passenger van may cost 30,000 rupees (\$1,350) to prepare, not much less than the price of a second-hand van.

Decorating a big truck, including high wooden panels suitable for painting on top of the original chassis, can cost 80,000 rupees (\$3,600).

"Basically all the decoration is totally useless and a waste of money, especially in a poor country," said Yousaf, who has made his living for the past 35 years from selling vehicle ornaments cut by hand from sheets of metal.

"But it's a competitive thing. If one owner spends 4,000 rupees, the net man will spend 10,000. You can't stop it."

Local styles have blurred with population movements, but regional preferences persist. Punjabis like paintings of famous Muslim clerics who preached in their region centuries ago, while people from Sind favour fishing scenes.

The Pathans of the northwest frontier like pictures of eagles, the Khyber Pass and tribesmen with bandoliers of bullets strung across the chests.

Portraits of former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, which nobody dared to display under the military regime that ended in 1988, appear on the backs of trucks now that his daughter Benazir holds power.

Smoky muffins stop airliner

NEW YORK, May 13. (Reuters): Four smoky corn muffins forced an airliner to make an emergency landing at Laganaria airport shortly after takeoff today, airport police said.

None of the 69 passengers or crew aboard the Usair jet was hurt. And when the plane took off after an hour's delay, breakfast was served, an airline spokeswoman said.

Airport police said the four corn muffins were too close to a heating element in the oven, pouring smoke into the galley.

India also begins diplomatic efforts on Kashmir

Counter-offensive

NEW DELHI, May 13. (Reuters): India has taken steps to counter a diplomatic offensive by Pakistan in their dispute over a Muslim revolt in the Indian-ruled portion of Kashmir. Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh said today.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto starts a tour of eight Islamic nations on Tuesday to seek support for a plebiscite to settle the Kashmir dispute, which has sparked two of the three wars between India and Pakistan.

"We contacted many countries in this direction and the response has been tremen-

dous," Singh was quoted as saying by the Press Trust of India news agency.

The Soviet Union has always supported India on Kashmir and the United States has publicly backed India's position that the problem should be solved through dialogue, Singh said.

He said a number of countries had appreciated India's stand that the problem should be solved through bilateral negotiations, as spelled out in the 1972 Simla agreement after the last war between India and Pakistan.

Pakistan denies Indian charges that it arms and trains Muslim militants in Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, where more than 300 people have been killed in a secessionist uprising since mid-January. Pakistan blames the unrest on India's refusal to allow a UN-mandated plebiscite in Kashmir to decide the future of the territory, two thirds of which is ruled by India and the rest by Pakistan.

Benazir will go to Iran, Turkey, Syria, Jordan, North Yemen, Egypt, Libya and Tunisia during the nine-day tour.

Communists kill 2 Clark airmen

(Continued from Page 1)

least 500 anti-riot police around the meeting site along Manila Bay.

President Corazon Aquino has refused to say whether she will agree to extend the lease for the bases, among the largest outside the United States.

In a nationally televised statement today, Aquino again gave no indication of whether she supports the bases. Nor did she spell out what her government would demand as the price for allowing them to stay.

"We are entering into these talks prepared to maintain our friendly relations with the United States, keeping in mind that any friendship must be based on respect for each other's rights and adherence to principles," Aquino said.

A spokesman for the Philippine delegation, Rafael Alunan, said the exploratory talks could take as little as a week.

US Ambassador Nicholas Platt told reporters last week that he hoped a new agreement could be reached by the end of the year.

Aquino ruled out Sunday any short-cut deals on a renewal of bases rights, vowing to observe difficult procedures outlined in the constitution.

"This government shall keep faith with the people and is determined to uphold all constitutional provisions regarding these bases," Aquino said.

She said that upon the expiration of the bases pact on Sept. 16, 1991 any new extension should be in the form of a treaty, approved by the Senate and submitted to a plebiscite if necessary as outlined in the constitution.

Majority of the 23-member Senate last year endorsed a resolution calling for the dismantling of the bases, saying they represented a diminution of Philippine sovereignty.

Aquino's statement knocked down speculation that she would agree to bypass the Senate and forge an executive arrangement extending the lease on the bases.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus and special US negotiator Richard Armitage were to begin exploratory talks on a new basing arrangement Monday at the tightly guarded Central Bank building at the edge of Manila Bay.

Aquino said the executive-legislative bases council, created to look into alternative uses of the bases, submitted Tuesday plans that open up possibilities of major contributions to national development.

"I have given instructions to operationalise portions of the plan which can be implemented immediately, starting with those base areas already reverted to us," Aquino said.

Large tracts of base lands were turned over to the Philippines in 1979, but the government has not put them to use.

"We are prepared to look toward opportunities for friendly relations and co-operation with the United States over and above the military facilities," Aquino said.



Captured

Troops have captured the captain who led an assault on the Philippine Air Force headquarters at Villamor Air Base in Manila during last December's coup attempt, the military announced yesterday.

Capt. Edilredo Adeva, a former instructor at Villamor, surrendered peacefully on Saturday when troops found him at the house of his father in a suburban Las Pinas subdivision.

Air Force chief Maj. Gen. Gerardo Protacio told reporters Adeva deployed munitions at Villamor to neutralise guards during the Dec 1-9 uprising in which 119 people were killed and more than 500 were injured.

Adeva appeared nervous during a news conference called by Protacio. He refused to answer questions and merely shook his head to signify he did not know when asked if there will be another coup attempt. Picture shows Adeva flashes a faint smile at the military camp. (Reuters wirephoto)

Damages Earthquake shakes New Zealand

WELLINGTON, May 13. (AP): An earthquake registering 6.7 on the Richter scale shook New Zealand's north island today, destroying a two-storey building and shattering windows as well as nerves, officials said.

Officials said they had no reports of injuries.

The quake, which struck at 4:23 pm (0523 GMT), destroyed a building in the town of Dannevirke, officials said.

Sue Emery, editor of the Dannevirke Evening News newspaper, said police had blocked off the town's main thoroughfare to clean up the debris and to clear dozens of shattered window panes.

"The quake felt horrendous," said Ms Emery. "It's pretty chaotic here. People are going in all directions."

The quake was felt in the capital of Wellington, 170 miles (274 kilometres) southwest of Dannevirke, as a rolling motion lasting several seconds.



Letter to Cory

Philippine Senator Wigharto Tanada waves a letter sent to President Aquino calling for the removal of US military bases in the Philippines, during a rally attended by 700 left-wing protesters in Manila. The letter was signed by two senators and 22 congressmen. Behind Tanada is 'Mabuhay' or 'long live, above the hammer and sickle Communist Party emblem. (Reuters wirephoto)

Storm havoc Hunt for missing kin

MACHILIPATNAM, India, May 13. (Reuters): Survivors of the worst cyclone to hit the east coast of India in more than a decade today searched for hundreds, perhaps thousands, of missing friends and relatives.

"My son came to visit on his school holidays and now he is gone," cried one frantic middle-aged man when he stopped a stranger to ask if he had seen an 11-year-old boy wearing a red shirt and white pants.

Four days after the cyclone rammed into the Andhra Pradesh coast with 240 kph (145 mile per hour) winds flattening nearly everything in its path, state officials said the death toll had risen to 439 with reports of more deaths coming in as relief workers reach marooned villages.

Some think the death toll could go much higher. "Yerumudi had a population of 6,000 people and it's been completely wiped out," said Ramesh Babu, a resident of the port of Machilipatnam at the heart of the disaster area. "I fear most of them have perished. They did not want to evacuate."

Machilipatnam, where 200,000 live, and its surrounding villages were virtually wiped out in a 1977 cyclone that killed 10,000 people, the worst on record in India.

On a narrow path between two flooded fields outside the port, Narasiah placed firewood around a body, cremating the only person in his family he could trace after the storm and deluge.

"I don't have the strength to call a priest and no money to pay him," he said, adding that he had not eaten for two days.

Tidal waves more than six metres (20 feet) high surged 15 km (ten miles) inland, sweeping away mud-brut villages and causing massive flooding that has isolated tens of thousands of people.

Helicopters yesterday began dropping food and potable water to the 1,400 villages marooned by floods or cut off by fallen trees and power lines blocking roads. Earlier attempts at air drops had to be cancelled because of high winds and heavy rains.

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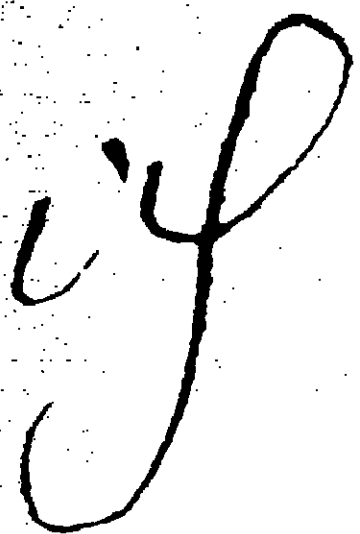
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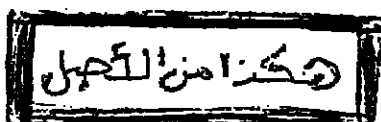
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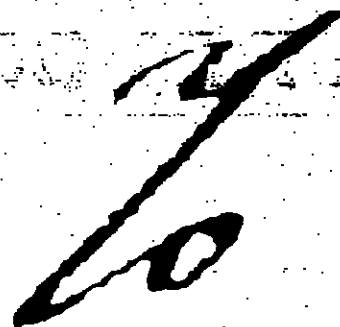


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PERFUMES ARE SOLD.



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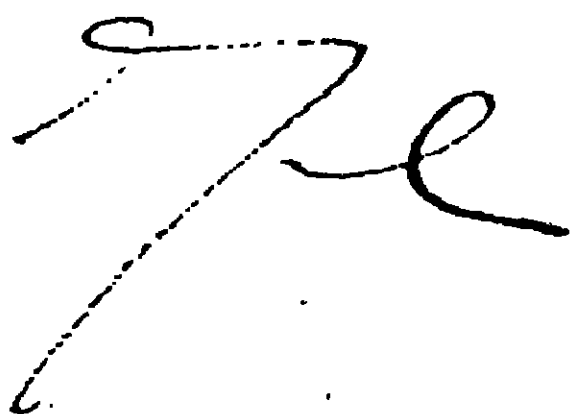
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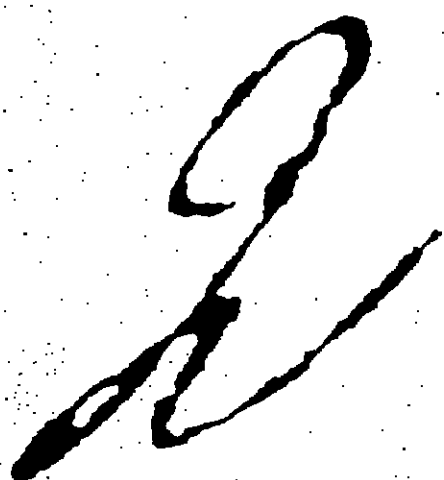
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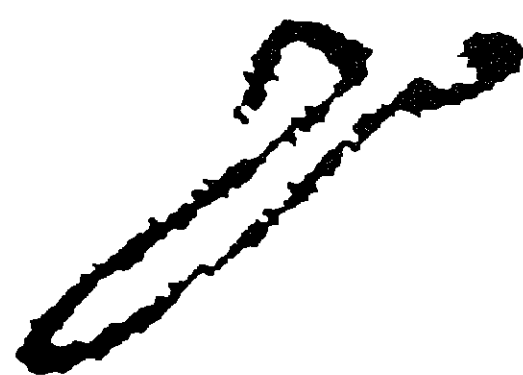
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CERVANTES

Call for legal bans on murderous breeds in UK, Netherlands

Deadly dog attacks horrify pet-loving nations

AMSTERDAM, May 13. (AP): Dog attacks on people have prompted calls for legal bans on some allegedly murderous breeds in Britain and the Netherlands, two of the world's great dog-loving nations.

Even as legislators try to restrict the ownership of Pit Bulls and Rottweilers, dog owners are cross-breeding the two to produce a larger, more vicious animal that one animal rights official calls a "Darwinian nightmare."

Every third Dutch home has a dog, which increased the shock when an Amsterdam toddler was mauled by his family's Pit Bull terrier last month while family members watched in horror.

Jack Vrieling was the second Dutch toddler to die in a Pit Bull attack in less than three months, and the incident has swelled anti-Pit

Bull sentiment.

In a gruesome irony, the toddler's attacker, named Killer, had been used in an earlier murder attempt, for which the child's father is now serving a prison sentence.

In the aftermath of the Vrieling killing, the Dutch government agreed to consider legislation banning the sale and breeding of Pit Bulls, even though Agriculture Minister Gerrit Braks had previously termed such a ban unenforceable because the dog is not a formally recognised breed.

The Rottweiler is at the centre of a similar outcry in Great Britain, where reverence for pets is legendary.

Emotions there boiled over in February after three Rottweilers mauled three children on a crowded London-area playground.

Last year savage dogs killed three people in Great Britain, including an 11-year-old girl who was training the two Rottweilers that attacked her.

Rottweiler and Pit Bull fans say they are not inherently savage, but are trained to be vicious by misguided owners.

The aggressive dogs serve as status symbols and a form of protection in high-crime areas, according to animal protection societies.

"Fearful Britain's answer to America's handgun" was how London's newspaper the Independent headlined a story on the Rottweiler craze.

The dogs, which weigh about 50 kilograms (110 pounds) now number an estimated 100,000 in Britain, with photos of Rottweiler victims

regularly filling British newspapers.

The Thatcher government abolished dog licensing two years ago in keeping with its promise to reduce government bureaucracy. Earlier this month, it repelled an opposition attempt to reinstate registration.

But while British and Dutch lawmakers continue to call for legislation to control the burgeoning number of Pit Bulls, Rottweilers, and other aggressive breeds, deadlier crossbreeds are being developed.

So-called "Bandogs" are a cross between the stout, broad-jawed Pit Bull terrier and large breeds like the Rottweiler.

Britain's Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals calls the cross a "Darwinian nightmare" that can kill an unarmed human in a

one-on-one fight.

"Bandogs and other crosses being bred at the moment are more savage than anything that we've seen in the past, so we must act quickly," Dutch Agriculture Ministry spokesman Benno Brugink said.

Asked in March about the possibility of outlawing the Bandog altogether, British Home Secretary David Waddington said, "I am prepared to look at anything."

The Netherlands instituted a nation-wide leash law on March 1, and several communities have passed Pit Bull muzzling ordinances, although they are routinely ignored.

Banning or regulating Pit Bulls and Bandogs is problematic, because both are crossbreeds,

difficult to identify scientifically.

The American Kennel Club does not recognise the Pit Bull terrier as one of its 141 registered breeds.

Defenders of Pit Bulls and Rottweilers say the difference between a pet and a killer lies in training, not the dog's genetic makeup.

"The Pit Bull is by nature an honest and reliable dog, it is merely trained for aggression," said Jan Dirk van Ginneke, chairman of the Dutch Pit Bull Terrier Club.

"It's not the dogs that should be punished with a ban, but the owners who keep them for the wrong reasons," said Van Ginneke, an auto body repairman who keeps five bulldogs and his Pit Bull "happy" together with a rare bird collection.

Soviet film shows gritty side of life

CANNES, May 13. (AP): The seamy side of Soviet life came to the French Riviera yesterday as the Franco-Soviet film "Taxi Blues" made its world premiere at the 43rd Cannes Film Festival.

"We couldn't have made this film 10 or even five years ago," screenwriter-director Pavel Lounguine said at a press conference. "These types of character didn't officially exist."

The film is about a Moscow taxi driver, played by Soviet rock musician Pyotr Mamonov, and his love-hate relationship with his saxophone passenger who can't pay the fare.

The only sleek places in the film are the metro and a film studio. Mamonov's apartment is worse than seedy, and back alleys and graveyards crawl with drunken tramps.

The film was co-produced by Frenchman Marim Karmitz who regularly backs European films to overcome what he sees as Anglo-Saxon domination of the movie industry.

"Taxi Blues" is among 19 films in competition for the prestigious Golden Palm Award. It is also up for the Golden Camera category for a director's first film.

"There's been some jealousy in the big Soviet studios since I made my film," said Lounguine. "We didn't use the big studios, but independently rented an apartment, part of which is shown in the film."

Lounguine said the film plumbs the depths of despair in the present-day Soviet Union. "The taxi driver is used to the law, the debris of an old ideology, now dying, and he doesn't understand what's going on when he meets the outlaw, the alcoholic musician and petty crook," the director said.

The film has not yet been approved for screening in the Soviet Union, but Lounguine hopes it can mimic the success of the gritty "Little Vera," an international hit depicting the life of a young woman in a soul-deadening industrial city.

The screening of Lounguine's film was only one example of East meeting West. Culture Minister Jack Lang attended a conference of French and Eastern European directors on the political and artistic freedoms confronting filmmakers still restrained by tight budgets.

Formal competition for the coveted Golden Palm opened Friday with Clint Eastwood's "White Hunter, Black Heart," based on the making of John Huston's legendary 1952 film "The African Queen."

The festival opened Thursday night with a gala ceremony where organisers saluted Japanese director Akira Kurosawa, whose film "Dreams" was shown Thursday but is not in the competition.

Celebrities gathering for a glamorous gala performance at Cannes Film Festival observed a minute's silence last night in protest against the pillaging of one of France's oldest Jewish cemeteries.

Britain

Ships collide

LONDON, May 13. (Kuna): British aircraft teams were working today to break up two oil slicks off south Devon's coast, southwest of England, after 1,000 tons of fuel leaked from a tanker.

Five Dakotas were spraying detergent on the oil while two others were mapping the extent of the spill for coastguards.

The oil covers eight miles by 10 miles.

The accident happened last night when the Liberian-registered Rose Bay was holed in a collision with a trawler off the south Devon coast.

The coastguards said the slicks were about 13 miles from the nearest land and there was no need for people on shore to be concerned.

The Rose Bay was on its way from the Gulf of Sweden when it was in collision with the trawler.

Fact, fiction overlaps Colombian film

CANNES, France, May 13. (Reuters): Fact and fiction overlapped at the Cannes film festival yesterday when the director of a Colombian film about drug-peddling gangs in Medellin revealed that four members of the original cast had died violently.

"In a country like Colombia half of the youngsters have no choice but to become petty criminals," director Victor Manuel Gaviria told journalists after the screening of "Rodrigo D — No Futuro (no future)."

The film, Gaviria's first depicts the hopeless lives of a group of youths in the slums of Colombia's

drugs capital, reduced to stealing motorbikes, pushing drugs in school playgrounds, and hiding from the police.

Many of the roles are played by local youths, not professional actors, and the film is dedicated to four cast members killed since the film was made.

"I feel much closer to death now than four of my colleagues have gone," said one of the actors at the sombre news conference.

"Rodrigo D — No Futuro" is one of 19 films competing for the Golden Palm awarded at the end of the 12-day festival.

French town shuts down

Sympathy with Jews

CARPENTRAS, May 13. (Reuters): The southern French town of Carpentras shut down briefly today to protest against the desecration of its Jewish cemetery, which has sent shock waves through France.

Local officials said all movement halted in the town for a quarter of an hour in sympathy with the town's Jews, who number about 125 families among a population of 28,000.

"The municipality has decreed that all shops will pull down their shutters at 11.30 am, that all residents shall go into their homes and that traffic will stand still," a spokesman said.

France's chief Rabbi Joseph Sitruk conducted a religious service later in the town's synagogue and a representative of French President Francois Mitterrand also attended.

The protests follow the desecration on Wednesday of the local Jewish burial ground, where 34 tombstones were smashed and the corpse of an 81-year-old Jewish man was exhumed and impaled.

The town council issued a statement saying Carpentras was closely associated with the history of the Jewish people. Local Jewish leader Freddy Haddad said: "Jews have never felt threatened in Carpentras."

Yesterday, demonstrators turned on two extreme right politicians — one of them a Jew — and expelled them from a rally attended by about 1,000 members of anti-racist groups, as well as local Jews, in the town centre.

Whistling, and cries of "fas-

cist" and "collaborator" rang out when the protesters spotted Fernand Teboul, a Jewish minor official of the right-wing National Front (FN), in the crowd.

Police escorted Teboul to safety. Another FN official, a non-Jew, left when told he was not welcome.

Many French politicians have accused the FN and its fiery leader, Jean Marie Le Pen, of creating an anti-Semitic climate. Teboul is one of a handful of Jews in the FN, which Le Pen said was not involved in Wednesday's incident.

Celebrities gathering for a gala performance at the Cannes film festival observed a minute's silence yesterday in protest against the desecration.

Meanwhile, police released five young skinheads detained in connection with the case after hours of questioning, French radio said. One was freed day before and the four others yesterday.

An investigator earlier told journalists some of them were believed linked to the daubing of anti-Semitic graffiti in nearby Avignon earlier this year.

Skinheads, youths whose trademark is their shaven heads, have a reputation for far-right sympathies.

In Paris, police banned a Sunday demonstration by right-wing royalists for fear of violence. An annual event to honour French national heroine Joan of Arc, the rally has no apparent connection with the Carpentras incident.

Jewish life in France thriving

PARIS, May 13. (Reuters): The desecration of a French Jewish cemetery last week was a brutal shock at a time when Jewish life in France is flourishing and the country's 700,000 Jews are more closely integrated than ever into mainstream French life.

"Happy like God in France" is an old Yiddish expression which has increasingly rung true as the tribulations of the 1940-1944 German occupation have faded.

"Despite increasing attempts by extreme rightists to incite anti-Semitic acts, this is a very good period for French Jews who take part fully in national life, are often very successful and remain proud Jews," said Nazi hunter Beate Klarsfeld, one of the community's best known figures.

But French Jews, like their co-religionists elsewhere, are always alert for signs of anti-Semitism, even though xenophobic feelings among French rightists seem to be directed mostly at the country's Muslim North African immigrants.

Memories of a dark past returned last week when the ancient Jewish cemetery at Carpentras in southern France was desecrated, with tombstones broken and the corpse of an 81-year-old man exhumed and impaled.

Many French politicians have accused the right-wing national front and its fiery leader, Jean Marie Le Pen, of creating an anti-Semitic climate but Le Pen said his organisation was not involved in the Carpentras outrage.

French Jewry was still recovering from Nazi persecution, which killed 80,000 French Jews, when the community doubled in size in the 1950s and 1960s.

Its ranks were swelled by Jews from France's former North African possessions, Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. They flocked to France or Israel because they feared Muslim rule after the French left.

Their arrival reinvigorated French Jewry and their subsequent success in business, medicine and entertainment has been striking.

"The social and economic success of the children of the immigrants has been spectacular and has in turn been a boon to the Jewish community as a whole," German-born Klarsfeld told Reuters.

In the past three decades, dozens of Jewish schools and community institutions have opened, new publications have appeared and a popular radio station has been set up in the Paris area.

Major demonstrations organised by the community, particularly those in support of Israel, have often attracted more than 100,000 people.

and goes right through to under-representation on college campuses," said Bambi Ramirez, director of the office of minority concerns at the American Council on Education, an independent Washington-based body.

The latest focus on the controversy is at Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where Professor Derrick Bell announced last month that he would not return later this year unless the school gave an academic post to a non-white woman.

Bell first lectured in law at Harvard 20 years ago



Crying for justice

Demonstrators chant in front of the Brooklyn Court House where two juries are deliberating in the trials of two white youths charged with murdering 16-year-old Yusuf Hawkins, a black youth, after he ventured into their predominantly white neighbourhood. (Reuters wirephoto)

Worst policy failure

US war against drugs

WASHINGTON, May 13. (Reuters): After 25 years as an international undercover narcotics agent, Michael Levine has strong opinions about the US drugs war. He calls it "the biggest, costliest, most dangerous failure of American policy since Vietnam."

Fifteen years after the United States lost the war in Vietnam, Washington's war on drugs is a subject of controversy both at home and in Latin America, which produces most of the cocaine and much of the heroin consumed by a seemingly insatiable US market.

Levine's comparison with the Vietnam war comes in the introduction of a book, "Deep Cover," which he wrote after retiring from the US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) where he had won several awards for outstanding work.

The book describes an undercover operation against Bolivian drug lords that failed, Levine asserts, because of bureaucratic bungling, in-fighting and rivalry between the DEA and US customs.

There has been no official comment on the former agent's blow-by-blow account of the operation, code-named Trifecta, but figures back up his gloomy conclusion that more seizures and more arrests do not mean that the war is being won.

In 1989, the year President George Bush declared war on drugs — as every president since Richard Nixon has done — US authorities seized almost a billion dollars in drug smugglers' assets and impounded 82 tonnes of cocaine.

The seizures set new records but failed to disrupt the huge domestic market for illicit drugs, the profits from which rival those of General Motors. Even the world's biggest single cocaine bust — 21 tonnes in Los Angeles — did not lead to shortages or price increases.

commencing a 38-hour "boot-strap" process of focusing the craft's mirrors.

If all goes well, the telescope's wide field planetary camera will snap the telescope's historic "first light" picture between Wednesday and Friday depending on whether the process needs repeating.

The subject of the picture, which is intended as a test and not to produce any new discoveries, will be a 3 billion-year-old star cluster known as NGC 3532, about 1,500 light-years from earth in the constellation Carina. A light-year, the distance light travels in one year, is about 5.8 trillion miles (9.3 trillion km).

Workers yesterday also completed an important set of tests on the telescope's guidance system, tested several instruments and turned on full power to the high-speed photometer — a high-tech light metre — and faint object camera.

In the same year, according to US figures, world-wide production of cocaine, opium and marijuana soared despite a US-led campaign to eradicate drug crops.

The lack of success prompted the Bush administration to bring its vast military intelligence network, complete with radar surveillance planes and spy satellites, into the drugs war.

In Latin America, the US is tending toward closer direct involvement of its troops and anti-drug agents. In the heart of Peru's coca-growing region, for example, the United States has built a fortified military base. Its perimeter defences, sand-bagged bunkers and landing pads for helicopters invite comparisons with Vietnam.

Manned jointly by DEA agents and Peruvian anti-narcotics police, the base serves as a launching pad for helicopter raids on clandestine airstrips and cocaine laboratories in the surrounding jungles.

The raids have had limited effect, US officials admit, but they have prompted a spate of warnings that Washington, little by little, is being drawn into the bloody civil war between the Peruvian government and guerrillas of the Maoist Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) movement.

The guerrillas have formed a tactical alliance with coca farmers, protecting plantations in return for "taxes" that help them finance an insurgency which has killed at least 12,000 people.

Undeterred by criticism of its on-the-ground involvement in Latin America, the US government announced in April that it would spend \$35 million on military assistance and training. According to US officials, army instructors are set to begin counter-insurgency training before the end of the year.

Hubble focused to take photos

WASHINGTON, May 13. (UPI): NASA engineers began focusing the Hubble space telescope yesterday in preparation for taking the \$1.5 billion orbiting observatory's historic first picture of the heavens this week.

As the 12-tonne telescope orbited 381 miles (613 km) above earth, technicians at the Goddard Space Flight Centre in Greenbelt, Maryland, just outside Washington, and Marshall Space Flight Centre in Huntsville, Alabama, began the work of

commencing a 38-hour "boot-strap" process of focusing the craft's mirrors.

If all goes well, the telescope's wide field planetary camera will snap the telescope's historic "first light" picture between Wednesday and Friday depending on whether the process needs repeating.

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Exhibit backing draws debate

WASHINGTON, May 13. (AP): The Smithsonian institution is drawing heavy crowds — and controversy — with a new exhibit that traces the information revolution from Samuel Morse's first primitive telegraph to an arcade of blinking computer screens.

Criticism of the "information age" show, which opened Wednesday for a permanent engagement at the National Museum of American History, stems partly from the decision to let corporate sponsors pick up the \$10 million cost.

It is the largest and possibly most expensive exhibition in Smithsonian history.

The Washington Post raised the issue of corporate sponsorship in a lengthy critique of the exhibition, and a reporter questioned museum director Roger Kennedy on the subject at a briefing last week.

Kennedy insisted that the show's content was not influenced in any way by IBM, AT-and-T, Unisys, Xerox and other industry giants who completely bankrolled the exhibit.

He said the Smithsonian was forced to rely on private support because congressional budget cuts had left his museum without any federal funds to mount major exhibitions.

Pressure

He dismissed the suggestions of corporate pressure. Despite the criticism, the exhibition is a undeniably a dazzler.

It includes 78 computers capable of handling a billion instructions every second and storing the equivalent of a million typewritten pages of information.

There are 43 video monitors, 52 laser videodisc players, 20 "touch screen" displays and 24 bar-code scanners — enough to equip checkout counters at a couple of supermarkets.

Visitors begin with a view of Morse's original telegraph transmitter, conceived in 1832, and exit through a chamber of wonders where the sound of Billy Taylor's jazz piano can be transformed into a cathedral choir at the touch of a button.

In between, the exhibit includes a working robot once used to weld automobile bodies at a General Motors plant, robots from the hit movie "Star Wars" and the first public display of the long-secret mechanical computers that enabled the allies to decipher German radio codes in World War II.

Along the way, there is a 1930s radio studio, a newsreel theatre, early phonograph records and the television camera used to broadcast the historic Kennedy-Nixon presidential debate in 1960.

Smithsonian officials predicted that the "information age" will serve as a future model for other museums because of its unprecedented opportunities for hands-on visitor participation at computerised displays.

Visitors can tap out the international distress signal at a recreation of the Titanic's radio room, talk over the same telephone wire used by Alexander Graham Bell, punch in their demographic profiles to retrieve 1890 census data and "analyse" their fingerprints using an FBI crime computer.

Sitting at separate computer terminals, visitors can simulate producing a TV news show, handling a police emergency call or trading on the international currency market. After a few minutes of frantic buying and selling, based on news flashes on the screen, the computer informed one visitor that he'd just lost \$28,312.

"This is the most ambitious, the most wide-ranging and most prodigious show we have ever done, and it will stay here," Adams said. Museum officials said the exhibit will be updated constantly to reflect technological advances and suggestions from visitors.

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Gillespie in Prague

American jazz trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie holds an umbrella over the head of a Prague castle guard as he makes a brief tour of the city prior to his concert. Gillespie is performing in Prague for the first time in nearly two decades. (Reuters wirephoto)

Black law professor's resignation spotlights lack of US minority teachers

BOSTON, May 13. (Reuters): A decision by a black Harvard professor to step down until the prestigious law school appoints a non-white woman has drawn attention to the lack of minority teachers at all levels of the American education system.

Academics say young blacks desperately need classroom role models, but because of racism and a lack of interest in the profession, fewer members of ethnic minorities are becoming teachers.

"It's across the board. It begins with under-representation at elementary and secondary school

and goes right through to under-representation on college campuses," said Bambi Ramirez, director of the office of minority concerns at the American Council on Education, an independent Washington-based body.

The latest focus on the controversy is at Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where Professor Derrick Bell announced last month that he would not return later this year unless the school gave an academic post to a non-white woman.

Bell first lectured in law at Harvard 20 years ago

and went on to become the school's first black teacher.

His resignation has raised the painful question of why, after a 25-year fight for civil rights, minority teachers are still in short supply.

"Problem one — racism is going on in our institutions, this is not a figment of the imagination," said Dr Beverly Cole, director of education at the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People.

Cole said this is because minority children, man;

of them poor, are not working their way through the education system, and those who do face racism.

Harvard says it has no non-white women academics at the law school because only a small number apply to join its staff, not because of sexism or racism among the faculty.

"We're comparable to the national average," said spokesman Mike Chmura. Chmura said that although 40 per cent of students were women and 20 per cent belonged to minority groups, it's not been that

high for long.

high for long.

PEOPLE AND PLACES



Royals watch royal show

The Duke and Duchess of York with their daughter Princess Beatrice at the Royal Windsor Horse Show on Saturday (Reuters wirephoto)

Lived on canned food, under plastic sheet for 4 years

Chernobyl 'phobia' woman hospitalised

LANGBOOM, Netherlands, May 13. (AP) A 24-year-old Dutch woman has been hospitalised after years of living under a plastic sheet and eating canned food for fear of radiation from the Chernobyl nuclear accident, police said yesterday.

The woman spent at least two years wrapped in the sheet and left her couch in the family home only to go to the bathroom, according to national police spokesman Arie van Turnhout.

Canned An investigation revealed that the woman hadn't washed and ate only canned food since the April 30, 1986, explosion of the Soviet nuclear power

plant, Van Turnhout told the Associated Press.

She was hospitalised last month with an inflated bladder after her parents alerted a doctor, said Van Turnhout, adding that police began an investigation into the case only last week after hearing of the case on the "village grapevine."

Psychological

The woman, who wasn't identified, suffered from severe malnutrition and cramped joints, Van Turnhout said.

Her parents had been told to humour her daughter until her fear of being contaminated subsided, he said, but did not disclose who gave the advice.

"It's just a miserable psychological case," he said, adding the entire family would be undergoing psychotherapy.

Shortly after the Chernobyl accident, the Dutch government briefly banned the sale of spinach and ordered the stabling of all Dutch cattle as the cloud of radioactive fallout swept west from the Soviet Ukraine.

There were similar measures in several Western European countries.

According to official Soviet figures, 31 people were killed in the explosion and fire, although a Soviet newspaper has speculated the death toll could be as high as 250.

LOS ANGELES: Mickey Rourke has joined Carre Otis, his girlfriend and co-star in the steamy Wild Orchid, in suing the film's producers for releasing nude pictures to Playboy magazine.

The photos depict the couple's torrid sex scene.

The lawsuit filed Tuesday alleges the producers did not get Rourke's approval before releasing the photos "for use in tawdry sex pictorials for financial gain and in order to obtain publicity for the film."

The lawsuit, which seeks unspecified damages, said the photos have hurt Rourke's reputation in the industry.

Nude photos taken during filming of "Wild Orchid" appear in the June issue of Playboy and the April edition of the German magazine Kise.

The lawsuit names Kruger-Breit Group Inc., Brent Star Film, Vision PDG and Vision International.

Miso Otis filed a similar lawsuit last week. (AP)

PARIS: Brigitte Bardot went on national television and used graphic film footage to condemn the capture and sale of wild animals.

Miss Bardot, 55, was the host of Wednesday night's SOS Animal Trafficking, the latest in a series on animal abuse. Other programmes have targeted vivisection, the ivory trade and the slaughter of elephants.

The sex symbol-turned-animal rights activist said public reaction to her programmes has been overwhelmingly positive.

Hunters have sent her their hunting licenses, tourists have burned their ivory bracelets, doctors support me in my fight against vivisection, and the sale of horse meat in France has dropped by 30 per cent," she said. (AP)

MUSCAT, Oman: A string of bullfighting arenas is being built along Oman's northern coast to encourage the traditional sport, which differs from the Western version in that bulls do all the fighting.

One arena is under construction at Al Mirani in the Basha region, about 55 miles from Muscat. Another will be at Sohar, 144 miles (232 kilometres) northwest of Muscat.

Barka is famous for its desert bullfighting tradition, and hundreds of people turn out to watch the spectacle on weekends and holidays.

In Oman, bullfighting, there is no human participation. A referee selects a pair of animals from among the scores of bulls brought to the ring by farmers. The two bulls are pitted against each other across a sandy arena with no barriers. Fans watch the action sitting on gravel piled around the ring. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Andy Rooney, suspended by the US television network CBS after allegedly making remarks offensive to blacks and homosexuals, says special interest groups are squelching debate on television and in politics.

The 60 Minutes humourist said the United States has become a nation "that doesn't say what it thinks about so many things" for fear of those groups.

In a speech to 1,000 people at a Constitutional Rights Foundation dinner Monday, he said, "there are organized minorities for almost every cause, and politicians, along with network executives, are scared to death of them. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Film director David Lynch has a hit with the television series Twin Peaks, but he is no fan of the small screen.

"I hate the quality of video. I hate the small screen. I hate the jousy sound and I wish it were different," Lynch said in this week's entertainment weekly magazine.

Lynch, director of the film Blue Velvet, likens seeing his movies on video to looking at a bad reproduction of a painting. "People say, 'I saw your film. I saw it on video.' But the truth is, they didn't see the film," he said.

As the public gravitates toward video cassettes for movie viewing, directors are also losing control over how their movies are watched, he said. Viewers fast-forward, pause and rewind during viewing.

"It's a joke," said Lynch. (AP)

LIVERPOOL, England: International pop stars gathered Friday in John Lennon's hometown of Liverpool to rehearse the Beatles songs they will perform at a memorial concert for the slain star.

Kylie Minogue, Wet Wet Wet and T'Pence Treat D'Arby will join 1960s and 1970s rockers including Joe Cocker and the Moody Blues in a Saturday concert that will be televised in Britain.

The programme will be re-broadcast around the world in October as part of a 50th birthday tribute to Lennon.

Lennon was shot to death in New York City on Dec 8, 1980, when he was 40 years old. The confessed killer, Mark Chapman, is serving a life prison sentence. (AP)

IMMIGRATION TO CANADA

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Evacuation warning

Worst flooding in Texas

NATIONAL guardsmen and volunteers rushed to sandbag water-softened levees on Saturday and 7,000 people were under an evacuation warning in the worst flooding in parts of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana since the early 1900s.

Fierce storms dumped 2 to 4 inches (5 to 10 centimetres) of rain on northwestern Louisiana, where the Red river already was rising from water draining down from the Oklahoma-Texas border area. Heavy rain also fell in nearby northeastern Texas and more rain was expected, officials said.

Poisonous snakes and fire ants driven out of cover by the water made emergency workers nervous.

Water had inundated more than 250,000 acres of Arkansas farmland and more than 18,000 cattle were stranded, officials said. In Texas, flooding had caused between \$500 million and \$700 million in agricultural damage, with millions more to homes and roads. Hundreds of Texas cattle have drowned in floodwater since Thursday.

Over the past three weeks, 12 people have died because of the flooding in Texas and one person died in Oklahoma.

Along Texas' rampaging Trinity river, about 500 residents voluntarily left subdivisions downstream

from the Lake Livingston dam after a judge issued an evacuation warning for 7,000 people in low-lying areas.

Some people reportedly wanted to stay to guard their property.

In Louisiana, forecasters said the Red river would reach a 45-year high in Shreveport by early this week, although no major flooding was expected in the city.

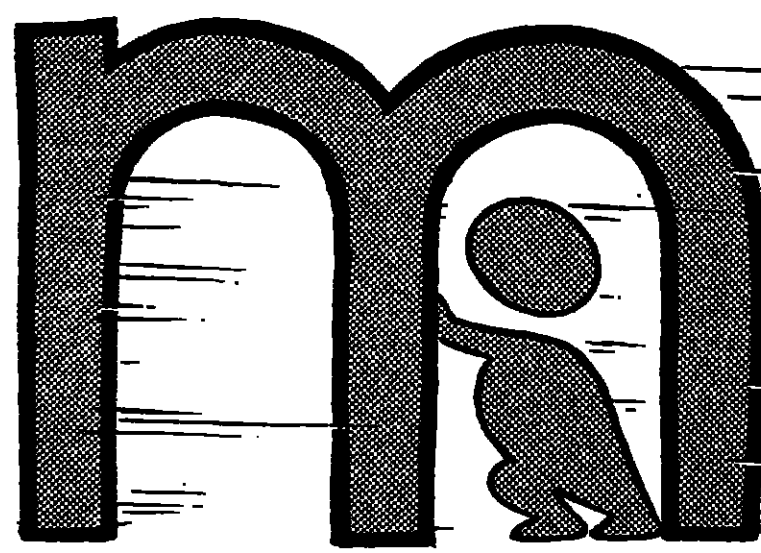
The US army corps of engineers said the volume of water expected to move through the region would exceed that of record floods in 1927 and 1957, but that levees and other flood control measures built since then would prevent a disaster.

Downstream in Avoyelles parish, national guardsmen arrived on Saturday to help finish a five-mile levee that about 50 farmers started building themselves on Friday with farm machinery to protect cropland from the rising river.

Upstream in Arkansas, volunteers sandbagged a levee at Garland, where the river threatened US 82, the only major throughfare still open into the Texarkana area from the Arkansas side. Westbound lanes of Interstate 30 were closed at Fulton.



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Great climbers

Nepalese Ang Rita Sherpa (left), first person to climb Mt Everest six times, shows his ice axe on May 3 in Kathmandu to Sir Edmund Hillary, the first man to scale the same peak in 1953. The expedition was organised by Royal Nepal Army which reached the summit on April 23 (Reuters wirephoto)

"You carry guys get out there and run," Bush said to the pool of photographers and reporters that recorded his early-morning jog at a local stadium track.

"Arnold Schwarzenegger and I would like this message to go out," he added in reference to the body-builder-turned-actor who heads the president's fitness commission. "A fat America is a strong America."

Using his nickname for White House photographers, "Photo Dogs," he continued in a jocular tone, "a fit

Bush tells press corps to get in shape

America should include photo dogs as well as print reporters who slovenly sit back in the stands while some of us are running.

One radio reporter complained that the president does not realise the endurance required to follow Bush's frenetic schedule and long hours, lugging heavy equipment all the while.

After rousing the pool of journalists to assemble on 25 minutes' notice for the early-morning run, Bush's staff issued an invitation to any who wanted to return to their hotel rooms, change into running clothes and join the president on his jog.

One took him up on the offer.

Bush honoured

President George Bush received a honorary degree from Rev. Jerry Falwell during commencement ceremonies at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, USA.

(Reuters wirephoto)

US teens attack contest

BALTIMORE, May 13. (AP) Teenagers who admitted punching marchers in a charity fund-raising "walkathon" say they were holding a contest to see who could land the best punch on a participant, police said.

The winner was supposedly to have received a cardboard replica of a prizefighter's championship belt, police said Friday.

Members of the group of seven to 10 teenagers have been linked to attacks on at least 11 walkers at the May 6 March of Dimes charity event, police said.

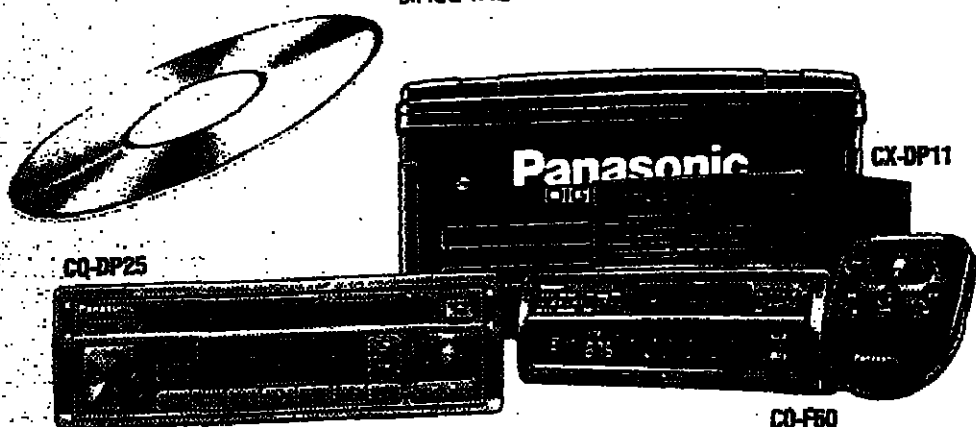
The 20th annual walkathon raised more than \$1.1 million in pledges for charity. Organisers said they plan to alter the 22-mile (34-kilometre) route next year to avoid the Baltimore neighbourhood where the attacks occurred.

The only person charged so far is an 18-year-old man accused of knocking out the front teeth of a 15-year-old marcher.

Police said at least two teenagers admitted participating in the attacks and implicated others in the gang of 16- to 19-year-olds.

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CIA condoned colonel's plan

Training Panama's rebels

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 13, (AP): Israel television reported yesterday that the CIA condoned a plan by an Israeli reserve colonel to set up a training camp for Panamanian rebels in Antigua and equip it with Israeli weapons.

The US intelligence agency declined to comment on the report, which came as Antiguan investigators were in Israel to inquire about the weapons shipment.

The camp project was never carried out, and Antiguan investigators say the Israeli arms later were diverted to a Colombian drug chieftain.

CIA representatives stationed on the Caribbean island did not oppose the training camp project, the report said.

"We always decline to comment on reports of this nature," said Peter Earnest, spokesman of the Central Intelligence Agency, in Washington.



Blessings from Pope

Pope John Paul II blesses the crowd during an open air mass in Zacatecas, Mexico, on Friday, the last state he visits during his Mexican tour. John Paul returned to Rome yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)

'Grant church legal position'

Pope tours Mexico

MEXICO CITY, May 13, (Reuter): Pope John Paul II pulled few punches on his tour of Mexico, telling the government to amend its anti-clerical constitution and the people to combat corruption and work for social justice.

Using straightforward language, he told millions of Mexicans that the gap between rich and poor in their country was growing.

The most delicate subject the Pope handled during his eight-day 10-city tour was the relationship between the state and the Roman Catholic Church.

"The church in Mexico does not want to be considered a stranger and even less so an enemy," he said in an address to Mexican bishops yesterday.

He twice assured the government that the church, if granted legal status, would stay within the limits of its religious mission and would not assume a political role.

Church-state relations in predominantly Catholic Mexico are an anomaly. The church is restricted by a 73-year-old constitution which may regard as an outdated revolutionary relic which needs to be changed.

President Carlos Salinas de Gortari took a political gamble in February by naming a personal envoy to the Pope, usually a precursor to full diplomatic relations.

Some government officials believe diplomatic relations can be established even if the national church does not have legal status. But church sources doubt if the Vatican would accept such a formula.

The Pope also confronted the sensitive issue of artificial birth control, which the government supports as a means to keep population growth under control.

Opposition politicians criticised the Pope for his outspokenness on birth control and constitutional issues, accusing him of interfering in national affairs. From the slums of Mexico City to the dusty fields of Durango, from Veracruz on the Gulf of Mexico to Monterrey near the US border, the Pope urged Mexicans to build a more just nation.

In Chalco, a sprawling squatter settlement outside the capital, he said: "We cannot live and sleep tranquilly while thousands of our brothers ... lack what is most indispensable to lead a dignified human life."

Economic hard times have widened the gap between rich and poor, he said. The wealthy were unwilling to renounce some of their privileges while the poor lacked basic necessities.

Pope Call for change

MEXICO CITY, May 13, (AP): Pope John Paul II departs for Rome today with a brief stopover on the Caribbean island of Curacao after completing a trip to Mexico in which he called for legal recognition of the church.

John Paul declared yesterday that the Mexican government should not consider the Roman Catholic church a constitutional enemy, but rather an ally in the fight for a more moral society.

"In a state of law, the full and effective recognition of religious freedom should be the fruit and guarantee of civil liberties," John Paul told Mexican bishops in his strongest call yet for legal recognition of the church.

Despite being overwhelmingly Catholic, Mexico has harsh restrictions on church activity, including bans on church property and participation in education and political life that date back to 1859.

The church was for many years considered a reactionary force by the ruling Institutional Revolutionary party, but in recent years the restrictions have been loosely enforced.

"The church in Mexico wants to be considered and treated not as something strange, nor as an enemy that must be confronted and fought, but as an ally of all that is good, noble and beautiful," John Paul said.

The Pope also appeared to back Salinas's campaign to clean up politics and institutions, telling Mexicans not to turn a blind eye to corruption.

The four-member Antiguan investigative team was assisted by US experts, the report said. It said the team completed its inquiry yesterday and is to report back to the Antiguan government.

On Tuesday, the Israeli Foreign Ministry gave the investigators a file of documents, including one signed by Antiguan's top defence official, Vere Bird Jr. It assured Israel the arms would not be sent to a third country and would be used exclusively by the Antiguan military.

The investigators also questioned reserve Col Yair Klein, who had wanted to set up the camp, the report said.

The affair began when Klein, who runs a private security company called Hod Hahani, or Spearhead, approached the Antiguan government with plans to create a military training camp, according to the TV report.

A senior Antiguan military official, who was not identified, told CIA representatives on the island about the plan and they did not oppose it, the report said. Klein told Israel television the school was "supposed to train 500 fighters" opposed to Panama's Gen. Manuel Noriega, who were "supposed to use the weapons coming from Israel."

He said his contact was the rebels' military leader, Eduardo Herrera, now chief of Panama's national police, and that their meetings were held in Miami.

"I was in contact with him, and his people were supposed to be trained in the school, and he actually had to lead the invasion of Panama. The school was supposed to train 500 fighters in the methods of action in constructed and open areas," Klein said.

The aim was "to carry out this sophisticated operation like a commando operation, without bloodshed, simply to neutralise Mike Harari and take him out of the country," he said.

Harari, a former top official at Israel's Mossad intelligence agency and security adviser to Noriega, has escaped from Panama — apparently during the US invasion.

"The idea was to carry it out smartly, with intelligence job done beforehand. Our conclusion and knowledge was that they simply would not fight, neither the army nor the unit protecting Harari...and this is what happened in Panama when the Americans invaded," Klein said.

But plans for the camp fell through, the weapons "were returned to the elements who bought them in Panama," he added.

Noriega was toppled in the December US invasion of Panama and was brought to the United States to face drug charges.

Klein offered no explanation as to how the weapons reached Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, a drug boss killed in a raid by Colombian police in December.

After Rodriguez Gacha's death, about 200 Israeli-made Galil assault rifles were found in his ranch.

The New York Times named Klein and Maurice Sarfati, an Israeli owner of a produce business in Antigua, as responsible for the arms diversion.

Government employees have rejected a 60 per cent pay increase Chamorro had ordered earlier this week, saying it did not keep up with the steep price increases. They demanded a 200 per cent raise.

On Friday, 2,000 striking workers broke through a police barricade and took over a plaza outside the presidential office. The government refused to meet with the strikers and threatened to fire them.

Lucio Jimenez, general secretary of the Sandinista Workers Union warned yesterday that the strike could be extended to a national level.

Labour Minister Francisco Rosales charged that the strike is being waged not for financial reasons, but "simply to provoke chaos." Declaring the strike illegal, he threatened to fire workers who don't go back on the job.

The civil service law suspended Thursday by Chamorro protects employees from firing and grants them the right to strike and bargain collectively.

Yesterday, 85 employees of the information and press department of the president's office returned to work, said Jairo Blandon, a spokesman for the workers.

Chamorro said Friday her govern-

Test pushes limits of ABM treaty

WASHINGTON, May 13, (AP): Arms control advocates said yesterday a newly tested missile tracking device could violate the 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty if deployed as part of a space-based defence system.

"The test does not have all the capabilities would need, but it is clearly intended to lead to a component which could be in violation of the treaty," said Sargeon M. Keeny, president of the

Washington-based arms control association.

Keeny said the six-hour test flight Friday of the airborne optical adjunct-airborne surveillance testbed stopped short of a violation of the ABM treaty.

But Keeny added that "the issue is whether the test is leading to a component which if successful would be in violation."

The infrared tracking device was mounted on a Boeing 767 that took off from

Seattle. It is designed to track hundreds of targets, sorting missiles from debris and decoys.

Three months of flight testing over the continental United States will be followed by tests using air force targets at Kwajalein atoll in the Pacific.

The ABM treaty bans space-based systems designed to substitute for radar in an ordinary system.

But defence spokesman William

O'Connell said the system does not violate the treaty.

He said it cannot scan wide areas of space but must be told where to look and therefore cannot be considered a substitute for radar.

Friday's test, he said, was primarily to determine the effects of vibration on the technology.

Keeny is a former deputy director of the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.



15 killed in car bomb blast

A car loaded with some 50 kg of dynamite exploded May 12 in the parking lot of a shopping mall in northern Bogotá. Two car bombs exploded simultaneously in the capital leaving at least 15 dead and over 100 injured. (Reuter wirephoto)

linked to a feud which erupted anew in the past two weeks between the two biggest cocaine cartels, based in Medellín and Cali. Businesses believed linked to the Cali cartel had been attacked earlier.

Bogota bombs kill 22 people

Indiscriminate attacks

BOGOTA, May 13, (Reuter): Three car bombs killed at least 22 people in Colombia as the country's drug barons appeared to switch to indiscriminate attacks in their nine-month-old war against the government.

Two bombs exploded in busy shopping areas of the capital, Bogotá, yesterday afternoon as thousands of people shopped for the Mother's Day holiday today.

Police said the bombs killed at least 15 people, including four children, and wounded 144. Local radio put the death toll at 19.

The more devastating blast killed at least 13 people, wrecked shops for two blocks and destroyed dozens of cars in the working-class district of Quirigua.

One woman, hysterical with grief, told television news how she rushed out to look for her children. "My boys were all right but I saw that my daughter had been blown to pieces," she said.

The third car bomb blew up in a nightclub area of Cali, 190 miles (300 km) southwest of Bogotá, just as discotheques were filling on Saturday night. It killed seven people and wounded 30, police said.

Police said the Bogotá bombs, which exploded simultaneously a few miles apart, were the work of the drug barons who have waged war on the state since the government cracked down last August on their activities.

"There's no doubt. It's an act of drug-terrorism which continues making many people innocent victims of its evil instincts," Colonel Jose Camero, operational chief of the Bogotá police, told Colombian television.

A police spokesman in Cali said the bomb there might be

linked to a feud which erupted anew in the past two weeks between the two biggest cocaine cartels, based in Medellín and Cali. Businesses believed linked to the Cali cartel had been attacked earlier.

The Bogotá bombs seemed designed to inflict maximum casualties. Police said they contained pieces of metal which became deadly flying shrapnel when the bombs exploded.

Although scores of bystanders have been killed in previous bomb blasts in the drug-traffickers' war with the state, most of the attacks were aimed at specific targets such as businesses, state installations or police patrols.

The bombings plunged Colombians deeper into a siege mentality two weeks before elections to pick president Virgilio Barco's successor and decide whether to continue the government's tough anti-drugs policy.

Cesar Gaviria, the ruling Liberal Party's candidate and favourite to win the May 27 elections, has committed himself to the crackdown but most opposition candidates have called for a new approach.

The war between the government and the drug barons resumed in late March after a two-month truce. Police say drug-traffickers have since shot dead more than 30 policemen and killed 55 people in bomb blasts.

The immediate aim of the drug barons is to force the government to abandon its policy of extraditing drug suspects to the United States to stand trial, diplomats say.

The government seized a record 14 tonnes of pure cocaine at a jungle collection point last week. The army also detained four prominent Medellín citizens on suspicion of abetting drug-related terrorism.

A police spokesman in Cali said the bomb there might be

Defence chiefs propose slash

Plan on Cheney table

WASHINGTON, May 13, (AP): The nation's military leaders open negotiations this week with Defence Secretary Dick Cheney on pared-down spending proposals that by 1997 would cut six divisions from the army, slash dozens of warships and defer missile programmes, Pentagon sources said yesterday.

The spending plans, which were drafted by the civilian and military chiefs for the army, navy and air force, were formally submitted to Cheney's office on May 1.

"There are no surprises here," said one source, who noted that the proposals, which cover the years 1992-97, are far from being finalised. "It's a submission. The final decisions are up to Cheney, up to the President."

Classified

All of the officials who spoke of the plans did so on condition of anonymity, given that the plans are considered classified.

The chiefs' suggestions came as Capitol Hill is putting great pressure on Cheney to clarify the Pentagon's long-range spending goals in this time of reduced superpower tensions and reduced chance of a major land war in Europe.

Lawmakers complain they can't debate President George Bush's \$303 billion budget submission for fiscal 1991 without this guidance.

Some want to slash \$15 billion to 20 billion from the single-year spending plan, while Senate Armed Service Committee Chairman Sam Nunn has set his limit at \$298 billion, a number that makes sharply reduced Pentagon spending a near certainty.

Arguments

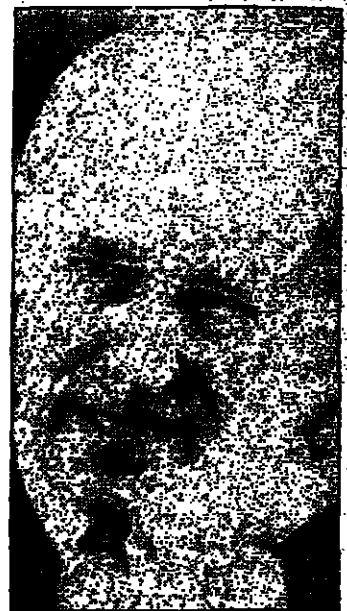
Following a formal presentation on strategy Monday by Gen. Colin Powell, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, each of the services will present their arguments about their recommendations to Cheney over a period of several days, another source said.

The secretary must make the final decisions about the proposals sometime this summer as part of the Pentagon's complex budget process. Bush will submit his 1992 budget to Congress next January.

Cheney has ordered the service chiefs to cut spending by 2 per cent below the rate of inflation in each year from 1992 to 1997, and in that light, the plans are supposed to be the first thorough review of the military's long-term needs.

"They are now in the secretary's hands, and now the real debate begins," said one Pentagon source.

Many of the proposals have been reported in recent weeks as the service chiefs debated their options. The Pentagon sources said the major points include:



Richard Cheney

Points

■ reducing active duty army forces by six divisions, which would cut the active duty force to 580,000 from 764,000.

■ Paring the army's reserve force from the current 776,000 to 645,000.

■ Slashing the navy's ship strength from 542 to 488.

■ Cutting carrier battle groups from 14 to 12, while seeking a new aircraft carrier in 1996.

■ Stopping Trident submarine production with the 18th ship, but with an option to build more in the future.

■ Vice Adm. Daniel L. Cooper, the service's top submarine officer, told Congress in March the navy initially wanted 24 submarines, to be built one a year at a cost of about \$1.2 billion each. The navy also has considered stretching out production, which would result in 21 ships built.

■ paring 500,000 active-duty navy slots and around 40,000 air force active-duty personnel.

■ Slashing nearly in half the air force's B-2 Stealth bomber programme from 132 to 75.

■ Putting off deployment of the MX rail garrison and the development of the midweight single-warhead missile.

■ Retiring the 200 intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Even though the chiefs have been forced to suggest the cuts, that doesn't mean they are happy with them or want to see them finalised, several sources said.

despite the suggestion that the navy's carrier fleet could be reduced, Navy Secretary Lawrence Garrett III still intends to argue for 14 carrier battle groups, one source said.

"Cooper wants at least 21 (Trident) submarines, Garrett wants 14 carriers," the source said.

The official said the navy wants an option to readjust its programme so that it could switch funds around and "buy back" ships in the future if world events sour, the source said.

Paper criticises Chamorro decrees

Actions violate constitution

MANAGUA, May 13, (AP): The Sandinista daily newspaper Barricada said yesterday's edition that changes made by President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro are a violation of the constitution as serious as a coup.

Chamorro, who is facing a strike by public employees, on Friday ordered a sweeping review of property seizures during the decade of leftist Sandinista government.

Government employees have rejected a 60 per cent pay increase Chamorro had ordered earlier this week, saying it did not keep up with the steep price increases. They demanded a 200 per cent raise.

On Friday, 2,000 striking workers broke through a police barricade and took over a plaza outside the presidential office. The government refused to meet with the strikers and threatened to

fire them. Lucio Jimenez, general secretary of the Sandinista Workers Union warned yesterday that the strike could be extended to a national level.

Labour Minister Francisco Rosales charged that the strike is being waged not for financial reasons, but "simply to provoke chaos." Declaring the strike illegal, he threatened to fire workers who don't go back on the job.

The civil service law suspended Thursday by Chamorro protects employees from firing and grants them the right to strike and bargain collectively.

Yesterday, 85 employees of the information and press department of the president's office returned to work, said Jairo Blandon, a spokesman for the workers.

Chamorro said Friday her govern-

ment would review all laws passed by the leftist Sandinistas in their last two months in office. Chamorro took office April 25.

Among the laws being reviewed are an amnesty that protects former Sandinista government officials from prosecution for acts committed while they were in the government and another that restricts ownership of broadcast media. One law being reviewed allowed senior Sandinistas to confiscate homes of the wealthy.

The president's actions "are a violation of the constitution as serious as a coup," Barricada said. It called the change in property laws "unconstitutional, contrary to agrarian reform and repressive."

The present constitution, drawn up during the Sandinista years, gives the executive branch significant powers,



Former president Daniel Ortega criticises new President Violeta Chamorro on Saturday at a press conference in Managua for refusing to meet striking labour leaders. Forty thousand government workers went on strike on May 11 (Reuter wirephoto)

Dutch protest

AMSTERDAM, May 13, (Reuter): Dutch police yesterday fired into the air to disperse protesters who hurled stones at the Turkish consulate in Rotterdam in a demonstration that got out of control, police said.

No one was injured in the incident in which protesters also fired two shots from an air pistol. Four men were arrested.

"The incident was over in about ten minutes, a crowd of about 50 people suddenly gathered outside the consulate and started throwing stones and then fired two shots at the building with an air pistol," a police spokesman said.

Police fired two warning shots into the air and then made three arrests. The fourth man was arrested an hour later when the crowd gathered outside a police station, according to the spokesman.

Handwritten signature or note in Arabic script.

Cool reception to ship

Bush signs proclamation on China

KEELUNG, May 13. (Agencies): Taiwanese set off firecrackers today to welcome the Goddess of Democracy radio ship to this northern port, where it will refuel before heading for the high seas to broadcast democracy messages to China.

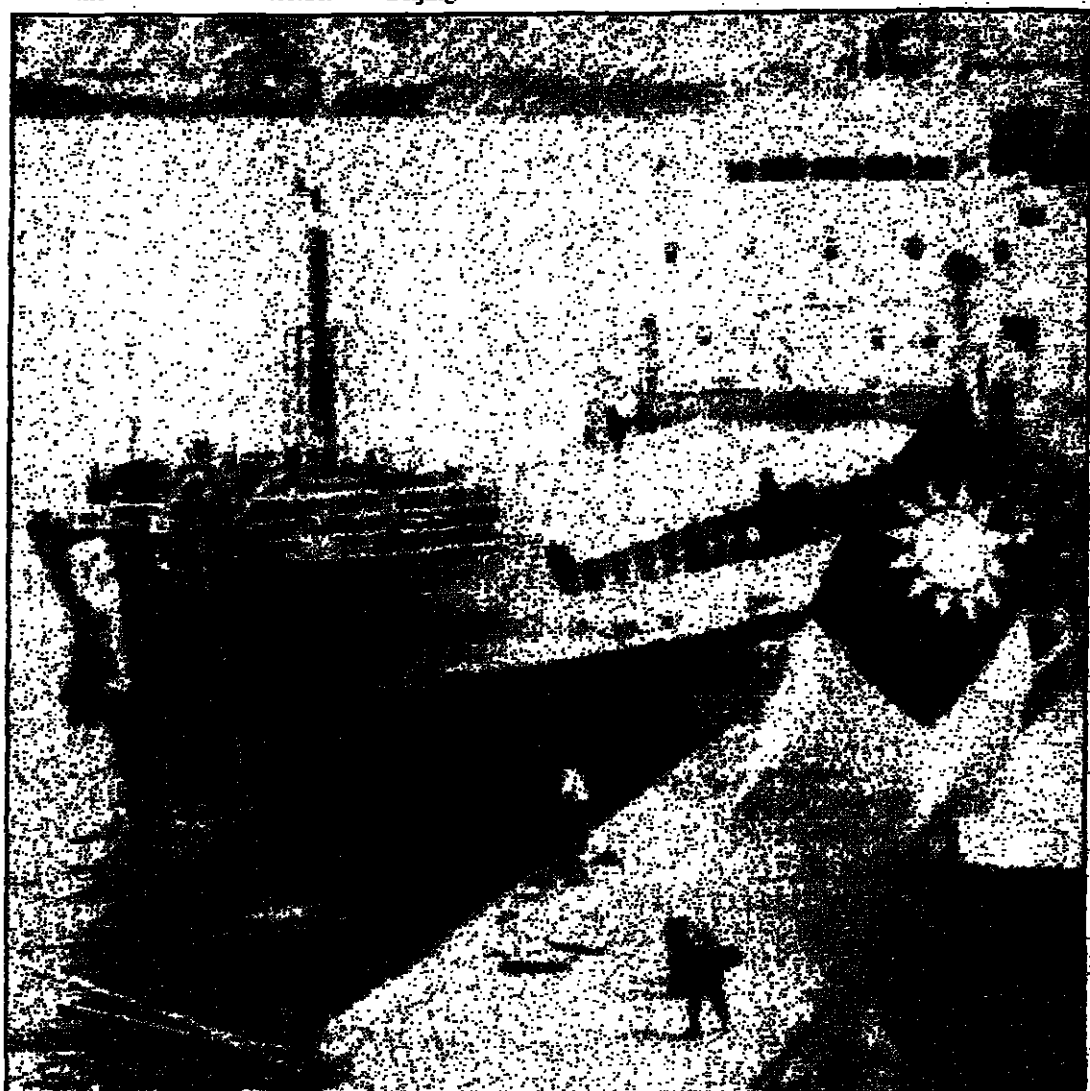
The authorities, however, gave a cool reception to the ship, not sending any official representative to welcome it and not allowing Chinese dissidents to board the vessel.

A high school band played music while about 200 journalists and 300 local residents crowded the pier to watch the arrival of the dissident

ship, scheduled to leave tomorrow for international waters to begin 24-hour broadcasts into China.

"We are here because we believe in freedom and democracy for all the world," Dominique Perrot, captain of the radio ship, said at a news conference.

Yan Jiaqi, chairman of the Paris-based Federation for a Democratic China, a dissident Chinese group, said the planned broadcasts were particularly significant because of the approach of June 4, the anniversary of the military crackdown on the pro-democracy movement in Beijing.



'Goddess of Democracy' lies docked at Keelung Port, May 13. (Reuter wirephoto)

"People on both sides of the Taiwan straits should get together to fight for China's democratisation," said Yan, who is visiting Taiwan at the invitation of a local newspaper. Earlier in the day, harbour officials rejected requests from Yan and other Chinese dissidents to board the ship to welcome the crew. Instead, on the pier, crew members received flowers from students and other local residents.

Tension
Although the nationalist government is the sworn enemy of the communists in Beijing, tensions between the two sides have eased in recent years. Taiwan has been distancing itself from the vessel and its mission, and the government did not send any representatives to welcome the ship.

Government officials have said the ship will not be allowed to return to Taiwan if it violates international law by making unauthorised broadcasts. Harbour officials said ship documents list its next destination as the Japanese port of Kobe.

In a dispatch from Beijing, Taiwan's state-run broadcasting corporation of China, quoting unnamed Chinese authorities, reported today that China would arrest dissidents aboard the radio ship when it begins the broadcasts off the Chinese coast.

Also today, the evening newspaper China Times Express quoted Chung Shu-Nang, head of a 10-member Taiwanese delegation of businessmen and legislators visiting China, as saying mainland authorities would arrest personnel aboard the ship for violating international laws by making unauthorised broadcasts.

In Beijing, Chinese President Yang Shangkun, speaking to reporters today before leaving on a trip to Latin America, said the ship planned to beam "propaganda aimed at overthrowing the Chinese government."

"We are resolutely opposed to the conduct of such subversive and disruptive illegal activities conducted by means of broadcasting in the coastal area of China or in the neighbouring high seas," Yang said.

He added, "We have been opposed to the provision of assistance and support by any country or region or organisation or individual to the action of this ship in various means."

Human rights
Meanwhile, President George Bush has signed a proclamation calling on Beijing to "respond positively" to the pro-democracy aspirations of Chinese demonstrators who were violently suppressed a year ago.

Bush signed a congressional proclamation naming Sunday, May 13, a national day in support of human rights.

The proclamation asked Americans to observe the day "in the spirit of commemorating those who died" around Beijing's Tiananmen Square during a Chinese military crackdown.

It said people should observe the day, "drawing inspiration from the courage of those who held fast to their ideals in the face of violent suppression, and urging the Chinese government to respond positively to the fundamental aspirations for freedom expressed in last year's demonstrations."

"These are the same fundamental aspirations as profoundly expressed by people around the world during the momentous events we are still witnessing — events that are daily advancing the cause of freedom and human rights."

Congress passed the proclamation on Friday and sent it to the president.

Bush, the US diplomatic representative to Beijing in the mid-1970s, has been criticised for failing to take stricter economic and political measures to show displeasure with China's repressive and violent tactics.

(3,500-kilogramme) Babe died with veterinarians in attendance. "They let her lay down all on her own. She gave a sigh and then she died," Gerard said.

Babe's body was to be moved to the Cornell School of Veterinary Medicine in Ithaca for an autopsy. Gerard said. (AP)

Therapy for Aids-linked infection: A recently approved drug appears to offer a better way of protecting Aids patients against recurrences of a life-threatening infection of the brain and nervous system, federal researchers reported Friday.

Tests of the drug fluconazole showed it was "at least as effective and may be superior" to the drug used to prevent cryptococcal meningitis while producing fewer toxic side effects, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases officials said.

Dr Anthony Fauci, director of NIAID, said tests comparing fluconazole to the previous standard therapy, amphotericin B, have been stopped and all participants have been offered fluconazole. (UPI)

Latin America
Letelier agreement: A Chilean official said Saturday that his government reached an agreement with the United States to pay compensation for the 1976 killing of a Chilean opposition figure and a US associate in Washington.

The "agreement in principle" came Friday in a meeting between Chilean and US officials in Washington, said acting Interior Minister Belisario Velasco.

He gave few details on the agreement. Velasco said the payments would go to the families of Orlando Letelier, a former Chilean foreign minister who fled to the United States following a 1973 right-wing military coup, and Ronni Moffitt, an aide to Letelier who also was killed when their car was bombed in Washington (AP)

US copters to move Contras: US military helicopters will be used to move about 1,800 Nicaraguan Contra rebels and their families from the Nicaraguan border to camps in southeast Honduras, the Foreign Ministry said Saturday.

A communique said the rebels, who surrendered their weapons April 18, would go to the Las Vegas refugee camp 50 miles (80 km) south-east of Tegucigalpa. The move will take place from Monday to Saturday.

"For humanitarian reasons, the government agreed to a request by the United Nations to relocate the demobilised rebels," the Foreign Ministry said, it said both Honduras and the United Nations approved the use of US helicopters.

The camp is run by the United Nations with help from Honduran military. (AP)

Europe
Cellist storms out of concert: Russian cellist Mstislav Rostropovich stormed out of a performance at a Rome concert hall because he was angry at being televised without advance warning.

In a letter published in Rome's Il Tempo newspaper on Sunday, Rostropovich said he left during the interval of a concert at the Santa Cecilia Academy on Friday "because I did not feel I could give the public my best and because the first violoncellist was so furious that he left his priceless Stradivarius cello behind in the concert hall and walked back to his hotel in the pouring rain." (Reuter)

Kubelik returns in triumph: Conductor Rafael Kubelik made a triumphant return to his native Czechoslovakia after a 42-year absence to open the 45th annual Prague Spring Music Festival in emotional style.

Kubelik, recalled time and again to the rostrum, received a 10-minute standing ovation after conducting Bedrich Smetana's Ma Vlast (my homeland) at the gala opening concert of the three-week festival on Saturday night.

The occasion was rich in symbolism and an outpouring of national pride. Traditionally, the festival opens on the anniversary of Smetana's death in 1884 with a performance of Ma Vlast — a work composed by the father of Czech and Slovak music and his country's musical heritage. (Reuter)

Hope for arthritis cure: British scientists hope for a breakthrough in the drive to improve arthritis treatment through unique research into traditional medicines used in India for thousands of years, it was reported in London Sunday.

The study at Sunderland Polytechnic, Tyne and Wear, north east England, will focus on "Ayurvedic" medicines, which use herbs, animal products and minerals and date back to 5,000 BC.

They are still widely used and under a deal a British team will help Indian doctors to improve them and also aid the quest for new treatments. (Kuna)

Fries, good for you: Whatever their name — chips, french fries or pommes frites — deep-fried shredded potatoes have an undesired reputation as unhealthy, a Swedish expert says.

Food technologist Ingrid Lamberg said potatoes, as they are known in France, Sweden and elsewhere in Europe, contained a near-complete supply of vitamins and minerals and, if cooked properly, were relatively low in fat.

"It is better to eat freshly made pommes frites than boiled potatoes that have been kept warm for a long time," she told the Stockholm newspaper Svenska Dagbladet. (Reuter)

Art thief fined \$1.6m: A burglar who broke into the former apartment of artist Henri Matisse and stole a cache of paintings has been fined \$1.6 million for damaging the works.

The correctional tribunal of Nice also handed down a three-year suspended sentence Friday to Frank Cochet, 24, a drug addict who scaled the building Dec 22 and broke in through the fourth-floor shuttered windows.

Cochet came upon the Matisse apartment by random, police said. He made with \$12.9 million in paintings. (AP)



Protest march

South Korean riot police lead away a student who joined a protest against President Roh Tae-Woo's ruling party in Seoul on Saturday. About 3,000 demonstrators marched on streets in the capital but later were stopped by police who fired tear-gas at rioters and marchers and bystanders. (Reuter wirephoto)

Sammy Davis Jr
Near death

BEVERLY HILLS, California, May 13. (AP): Small groups of fans and reporters kept vigil Saturday at the home of cancer-stricken entertainer Sammy Davis Jr.

Davis, 64, was near death, sources close to him said this week.

About a dozen people kept watch at his home Saturday.

Davis, first diagnosed and treated for carcinoma of the throat last September, suffered a recurrence of the cancer and was hospitalised for a time at Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre.



No to massacre

Demonstrators protest outside the Chinese embassy in Sofia on Saturday against last year's Tiananmen Square massacre in Beijing. The action was organised by the Federation of Independent Students' Societies and the Salvation Christian Union. The banner slogan reads "Long live democracy." (Reuter wirephoto)

Kasparov to form
New party

LONDON, May 13. (Reuter): World chess champion Garry Kasparov of the Soviet Union says he has lost faith in President Mikhail Gorbachev and plans to form a new opposition party in Moscow on May 27.

Kasparov, interviewed by Britain's Sunday newspaper the Observer, confirmed that he had resigned from the Soviet Communist Party and was now drawing together various political groups in Moscow to form a new anti-communist party.

He was a member of the central committee of the young communist league of Azerbaijan, his home republic.

Kasparov, who became the youngest world chess champion at age 22, said he had lost faith in Gorbachev's ability to implement reform in the Soviet Union.

Speaking in France, Kasparov said the new party would aim to bring together various anti-communist groups, including some members of the Soviet Parliament, into an electoral force to change the social system, to move to a market economy and introduce democracy.

Nancy Reagan pays tribute: Nancy Reagan paid tribute yesterday to World War I American volunteers, touring a museum of Franco-American relations in the Picardy region and attracting droves of French aristocrats anxious to be seen with the former first lady.

Dressed in a beige suit with golden buttons and gold earrings, she wandered around the museum's collection of souvenirs collected by Anne Morgan, daughter of the banker J.P. Morgan, including an old American field service ambulance and the emblems of the Lafayette squadron of American volunteers. (UPI)

Babe the elephant dies: Babe, the Asian elephant whose calf was stillborn in an emergency Caesarean section last month, died yesterday, said a Bureau Park zoo official.

The cause of death was unknown, said Bob Geraci, spokesman for Oaoudaga County Parks, which operates the zoo.

Geraci said the 36-year-old, 7,700-pound

World News

Scuffles erupt at funeral: Scuffles broke out on Sunday between Egyptian police and mourners at the funeral of six Christians murdered in an ambush last Friday, witnesses said.

Police baton-charged sections of a crowd several thousand strong that turned out for the funeral, they said. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

An Egyptian farmer seeking revenge for his brother's death shot dead the six people, including a priest, in an ambush on their car near Alexandria.

Police said that although the farmer was a Muslim and his victims Christian, the killing had no religious connotations. (Reuter)

Soviet police teams in Cairo: Egypt's interior minister said Thursday that Soviet police teams had arrived in Cairo to learn from the Arab country's experience in smashing Muslim extremism.

"Soviet police teams came to Cairo so that we could teach them how to fight terrorism," Interior Minister Maj. Gen. Abdul-Halim Moussa told the weekly Cairo magazine Al-Musawwar in an interview.

The Soviet Union has experienced recent bloody clashes between Muslims and Christians. (UPI)

Iraq extends amnesty: Iraq has extended for a month an amnesty for Kurds who want to return from exile, the Iraqi News Agency said on Saturday.

It said the amnesty was extended to June 11 because of "the increased wish shown by Kurds abroad to return home."

Iraqi newspapers reported that more than 2,000 Kurds had returned home during the past two months, most of them from Turkey. (Reuter)

FLN to hold march: Algeria's ruling National Liberation Front (FLN), left out of a recent wave of street marches in the capital, plans to organise one of its own next week to denounce political exploitation of the mosques.

The state-run daily Al-Messa said the FLN would call for a march in Algiers on May 17 to protest political and electoral reforms in the mosques by Islamic fundamentalists.

The FLN had originally scheduled the march for April 20 but postponed it to avoid clashes with one organised at the same time by the opposition Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). (Reuter)

Palestinian activist dies: An ailing radical Palestinian activist, convicted of murdering a senior PLO official in Amman nearly five years ago, has died of leukemia in his prison cell, a Palestinian source said Saturday.

The source, an official of the Marxist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, told the Associated Press that Mutaz Sbeih Hamdan, 24, died Friday in Swaga prison, 35 kilometres (22 miles) southeast Amman. (AP)

Algerian floods, 16 feared dead: Up to 16 people were feared dead after torrential rains swept the southwestern province of Al Bayadh on Friday, the Algerian news agency APS reported.

If confirmed, the casualties would bring the total killed in two weeks of heavy rain in the south and west to at least 25.

APS said five bodies had been recovered and 11 were still missing in the region of Boualem, 370 km (230 miles) from the capital. The missing were from two families attending a wedding party. (Reuter)

Peace march postponed: The Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee's Amman chapter said Saturday the group was postponing its peace march from the Jordanian capital to the Israeli-Jordanian border from June 1 to Nov 29.

In a statement, the ADC said the march was postponed to allow in response to requests from individuals and international organisations, who requested time to organise their participation.

The aims of the march were solidarity with the Palestinians uprising against Israeli occupation, promotion of immediate peace talks between Israel and Palestinians, and the creation of an independent Palestinian state. (UPI)

Demjanjuk appeals: Convicted Nazi war criminal John Demjanjuk starts his appeal in Israel's Supreme Court on Monday in a final attempt to prove he was not a sadistic guard who gassed to death hundreds of thousands of Jews in World War Two.

Demjanjuk, 70, a Ukrainian-born car worker deported from the United States, is appealing against an April 1988 death sentence that would make him the first Nazi war criminal hanged in Israel since mass murderer Adolf Eichmann in 1962. (Reuter)

America
American team climbs Lhotse: An 11-member American expedition recorded a rare feat today by sending two climbers to the top of the 27,982-foot (8,520 m) Lhotse, the fourth tallest peak in the world, after successfully conquering adjacent Mount Everest, the Ministry of Tourism said.

Scott Fischer, 35, a mountain guide from Seattle, Washington, and Wally Berg, another mountain guide from Copper Mountain, Colorado, reached the summit this morning after a seven-hour and 45 minute climb up the peak's west ridge. The pair spent 20 minutes taking photographs before descending to a camp. (UPI)

Comedy show for homeless: A parade of comedians, actors and high-kicking rockettes prompted cable television viewers and others yesterday to pledge at least \$1.2 million to help the homeless.

"Comic Relief '90," telecast by HBO, was staged at radio city music hall, the first of four specials to originate from New York.

The previous three shows, all held in Los Angeles, raised more than \$8.7 million. The \$1.2 million subtotal was announced about two hours after the programme started at 8 pm (0000 GMT). (AP)

Growing size of schoolbag – common threat to future generations

BEIJING, May 13. (Kuna): By sheer coincidence and acting independently of each other, some of China's top leaders and certain little known Indian physicians have recently pinpointed a common threat to future generations — the growing size of the schoolbag.

According to a special study by Press Trust of India (PTI) prepared by Kuna, one other than Premier Li Peng asked for a reduction in the "heavy work load" of elementary school pupils for the benefit of their bodies and mind, according to a report issued by the State Education Commission of China.

"Too much homework is detrimental to the pupils' moral, intellectual and physical development," Premier Li is reported to have written in response to a letter addressed to him by two fifth-year pupils in Beijing recently.

Almost immediately, Vice Minister of Education Liu Bin ordered a thorough investigation in the matter. The study revealed that kids are "overloaded" with courses, homework and frequent tests.

At about the time when this appeared in the official Chinese press, a report in the Journal of Indian Pediatrics described the case of an 11-year-old boy in Davangara town of Karnataka who had almost choked to death by his school-

bag weighing seven kg. "Intense asphyxiation was caused due to accidental strangulation by the strap of the heavy schoolbag," the medical report by Dr M. L. Kulkarni noted.

Doctors of the medical college hospital in Davangara were able to save the boy's life by releasing the strap of the bag and resuscitating him with oxygen and other means.

Meanwhile, in Shanghai, 68-year-old Li Mefeng, who had to take her grandson to school every day, was getting tired of carrying his bag. The 10-year-old boy simply refused to carry the load himself.

One morning, according to the Shanghai-based Xinhua Evening News, she carried a weighing scale to the school. On the way she met another grandmother, Wang Xuixian, who, as it happened, was also carrying one.

The two grey-haired women then set about conducting a "sample survey" at the school gate and found that the average weight of the pupils' schoolbags was 3.75 kg — almost that of a rifle. Thereafter they went to a dozen primary schools in Shanghai city and weighed more than 150 schoolbags. The heaviest bag weighed as much as 6.25 kg.

New Mongolian party

ULAN BATOR, May 13. (Reuter): A Mongolian opposition group today proclaimed itself a political party and pledged to recreate aspects of the golden age of Genghis Khan's 13th century Mongol empire.

A Congress of about 650 delegates cheered and roared "Mongol, Mongol!" as party chief Daadorgin Ganbold announced the establishment of the Mongolian Party of National Progress (MPNP), which estimates its membership at about 2,000.

The MPNP is considered the third most powerful of a rash of new political groups planning to run in July elections to oust the ruling communists from their 69 years grasp on power.

Ganbold evoked the memory of the "great Khan," Genghis, unified of warring Mongol tribes and ruthless conqueror.

"We should learn lessons from Genghis," he told delegates. "The secret of the 13th and 14th century Mongol empire was the separation of economic matters from ideology."

He said Kublai Khan, Genghis's grandson, permitted plurality in religious belief which was akin to a modern day political system of many parties.

The MPNP manifesto adopted today advocates a jump from communist central planning to a capitalist market economy.

Albania
cautious
on reform

VIENNA, May 13. (AP): Albanian leaders, in comments made available today, rejected classic Western democratic models for their country as it slowly emerges from decades of Stalinist self-isolation but pledged that the cautious course of liberalisation would continue.

In recent weeks Albania has moved to reform some of the most restrictive aspects of its social and economic system. But it has avoided any promise of political change of the kind that has introduced plurality in other East European countries, and communist control in Albania remains reminiscent of the repressive Stalinist 1950s in the Soviet bloc.

"I think it would be absurd to recommend the French or English model of democracy in another country," Albania's state ATA news agency quoted Communist Party Ramiz Alia as telling UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Mrs Ochir speaks

Unsolved murder

ULAN BATOR, May 13. (Reuter): As Mongolia allows freedom of speech after nearly 70 years of communist rule, the widow of a famous scholar has spoken out about the unsolved and brutal murder of her husband.

Five years after it occurred, the killing of popular academician and leading communist politician Tomor Ochir remains one of Mongolia's biggest mysteries.

For many, its solution is an important step to uncovering the horrors of the rule of Stalin protégé and former President Yumzhagin Tsedenbal, who dominated the country from 1952 to 1984.

In the increasingly open political atmosphere of Mongolia, the mystery may soon be solved. The nation has moved rapidly toward democracy since late last year, and the government last month announced it would probe the actions of Tsedenbal's rule.

Nin Badgar, Tomor Ochir's widow, believes someone in the ruling Communist Party was responsible for his murder, and that there was a cover-up.

Many Mongolians believe it, too.

"There has never been a thorough investigation, and no findings were made public," said a Mongolian government official.

The official said many Mongolians believe Tomor knew his attacker, who acted to death in his home.

Nin Badgar said an unidentified caller summoned her from a relative's funeral, saying only that her husband was seriously ill in hospital.

"When I arrived at the hospital, they said they had already completed their forensic tests," she said. No findings were ever revealed to her.

She, along with many of her countrymen, believes the murder was politically motivated.

■ Mongolia's president and its Communist Party leader arrived in the Soviet Union today for talks expected to focus on the political and social reforms under way in both nations.

President Punsalamagijn Ochirbat and party General Secretary Gombogayn Ochirbat, both in office since March, were met by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport, the Tass News Agency reported.

Front supporters disrupt rival rally

Exchange obscenities' slogans

BRASOV, Romania, May 13. (Reuter): Supporters of the ruling Romanian National Salvation Front (NSF) disrupted an election rally by Liberal presidential candidate Radu Campeanu in this Transylvanian city today.

About 200 chanting NSF supporters shouted "down with Campeanu" as he tried to address about 3,000 supporters of his National Liberal Party.

The two sides exchanged obscenities and slogans for about one hour after Campeanu left the balcony in central Brasov from which he spoke.

Opposition parties have alleged widespread intimidation by supporters of the NSF during the campaign for the May 20 parliamentary and presidential elections.

In today's clash a young pro-Front demonstrator pointed a pistol at Liberal supporters about 10 metres (yards) away.

Front supporters

disrupt rival rally

Exchange obscenities' slogans

He pulled the trigger, producing a metallic click, but no shot.

One of several hundred police controlling the demonstration saw the pistol but took no action.

Brasov, in the Carpathian mountain range in central Romania, was the scene of protests against dictator Nicolae Ceausescu when workers rioted in 1987.

Serious fighting erupted in the pretty city centre during the bloody fighting across Romania in December between pro-Ceausescu loyalists and army units which joined the revolution.

"Go back to Paris" a pro-Front supporter screamed at Campeanu at today's demonstration.

Campeanu, like the other opposition candidate, Ion Raicu, returned from years of foreign exile after Ceausescu was toppled on December 22 and executed on Christmas Day.

Pretoria spells out minority rights plan

Anti-apartheid leaders criticise proposal as 'racial division'

CAPE TOWN, May 13, (Reuters): South Africa's white government has spelled out its policy for future negotiations with blacks, proposing a 12-point minority rights plan.

But the plan was immediately criticised by anti-apartheid leaders who said it would perpetuate racial division. The plan would prevent a one-party state or communist dictatorship being imposed by an "unsophisticated majority vote," a phrase which angered some black and white liberal leaders who said it referred to blacks.

Constitutional Development Minister Gerrit Viljoen, outlining the plan to Parliament last week, said protection for

minorities such as whites, Asians and (mixed race) coloureds was essential to build a new South Africa.

"These minorities because of their particular values and aspirations should have a special voice in the new constitutional dispensation," Viljoen said. The government is under pressure to protect white interests. White pro-apartheid militants say they are forming paramilitary groups to defend the white "nation" because President F. W. de Klerk is capitulating to blacks.

One group, the neo-Nazi Afrikaner resistance movement, invited local journalists for the first time to visit a training camp. They saw women volunteers at rifle

practice at Ventersdorp in Transvaal province last week.

"We are sure heading for black revolution and we will meet it. It will be a holy war," the movement's leader, Eugene Terre Blanche, told volunteers.

An official of Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC), quoted by Johannesburg's Sunday Star newspaper, said Viljoen's reference to "unsophisticated" voters was arrogant.

Did sophisticated whites vote the nationalists into power? ... Did sophisticated Germans vote for Hitler? asked the official, who was not identified.

The government says whites, econ-

omically dominant but outnumbered five to one by blacks, need constitutional protection from what it predicts would be black domination under a one-person one-vote system of majority rule.

The ANC, the main black opposition group which began preliminary talks with De Klerk this month on ending 350 years of white supremacy, rejects this and says general guarantees of freedom of religion, language and culture should suffice.

It suspects the government will repeal laws on formal apartheid, the system that regulates daily life according to skin colour and denies blacks the vote, but promote informal segregation in key areas of life such as education and housing.



Female members of the extreme right-wing Afrikaner Waardstandsbeweging (AWB) take aim during a training session on Saturday under the guidance of an instructor. A group of 300 men and women attended Saturday's training camp, on a farm outside Ventersdorp, to prepare members of the organisation for their fight against black domination. (Reuters wirephoto)



West German police hoses down protesters in downtown Frankfurt on Saturday demonstrating against the unification of the two Germanys. Around 20,000 people took part in the demonstration. (Reuters wirephoto)

Walesa throws down gauntlet

WARSAW, May 13, (AP): Solidarity chairman Lech Walesa heatedly told his intellectual advisers today that he will not back away from a battle with his former allies in the government of Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki.

Walesa said he had been "on leave" since Mazowiecki took control of the government last fall "because I was convinced that everything would go on all right."

"Today I return from this leave, because I want to have a war... a war that gives peace to the society at the bottom."

Addressing the national citizens committee, an unofficial panel founded by Walesa to act as the Solidarity movement's political wing, he said a fight is needed to stir up ideas so the government does not become too isolated from the people.

In a departure from the past, Mazowiecki did not attend the citizens committee session — sending a curt two-sentence note that said he had promised instead to attend a mass in Krakow.

"I know that I have offended a lot of people," Walesa began. Then he added defiantly: "I would like to offend even more."

The Solidarity leader has recently pitched himself against the "eggheads in Warsaw" whom he says are not producing concrete results for people expecting radical changes as Poland reforms its economic and political systems.

Walesa has criticised the government he co-created last August for its slow pace at privatising the state-dominated economy and the retention of communist holdovers in economic and governmental jobs.

E. Germany executions

EAST BERLIN, May 13, (Reuters): East Germany's former Stalinist regime secretly guillotined 62 prisoners and burned their bodies in the 1950s, according to the state crematorium director in Dresden.

"The time has come when I simply can no longer cover up," Dietmar Hildebrand told the official ADN news agency.

He said he was speaking out because East Germany's new democracy had encouraged people to renew inquiries into the fate of relatives who were arrested and vanished in the early postwar era.

Quoting death certificates, trial records and statements by witnesses, Hildebrand said 62 people were beheaded between July 1952 and January 1960 in the former execution chamber in Dresden of the Nazi-era people's court.

Victims were strapped to a plank without blindfolds in the early hours and guillotined, he said. The bodies were burned at the crematorium which Hildebrand has headed since 1984.

To cover up the executions, Hildebrand said, government doctors listed natural causes of death, often heart failure, on obituary notices, relatives dared not challenge them.

Experts agree on draft treaty

German monetary union

BONN, May 13, (Agencies): Experts from East and West Germany omitted some key issues when they agreed a draft treaty on monetary union, Bonn government sources said today.

The treaty, which will form the basis for merging the two German economies in July, leaves out details on protecting East German property from Western speculators and on helping East German enterprises and farms to adapt to a free-market economy, the sources said.

These important issues will instead be contained in a supplement to the treaty, they said.

The experts who prepared the treaty agreed that Western investors could purchase property in East Germany if they set up businesses and created jobs there.

The draft treaty was finally concluded just before midnight on Saturday after a marathon 30-hour session. This meant that Bonn and East Berlin were still on course to introduce the powerful West German mark into East Germany on July 2.

A Bonn government spokesman said the draft would be handed to the two governments for negotiation and approval this week.

The parties in West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's ruling centre-right coalition are due to debate it on Tuesday. Kohl will brief prime ministers of West Germany's states on Wednesday and the cabinet hopes to approve the treaty on Friday.

The West German Parliament should give its stamp of approval to the treaty in late June. Kohl warned East Germany last week that the introduction of

the West German mark was linked to sweeping economic reforms, such as property rights for non-East Germans.

The finance ministers of the two Germanys meet tomorrow to begin formal talks on the treaty's economic consequences. Kohl is also expected to meet East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere informally.

The Bonn sources said the main test was whether East Germany's ruling coalition would ratify the draft and its supplements. The Social Democrats, junior coalition partners, have demanded more protection for the poor and elderly.

East Germans on fixed incomes such as pensioners and the poor are expected to suffer most when price subsidies are scrapped and prices rocket.

But the experts agreed that no pensioners should be worse off after monetary union, with the state footing the bill.

Last month, Kohl and De Maiziere solved the most sensitive issue in the negotiations when they agreed that East German wages and most private savings should be exchanged into the artificially high rate of one-for-one.

When the treaty takes effect, East Germany will largely give up sovereignty over fiscal policy and adopt some of Bonn's tax laws. West Germany's pension and unemployment system will also be introduced with Bonn paying for the cost of setting it up.

East Berlin employed twice as many spies in West Germany as anyone had estimated, a West German intelligence chief said yesterday.

East Germany's communist regime, which fell last year, is now believed to have had 5,000-6,000 agents active in West Germany, Peter Frisch, vice-president of the federal office for the protection of the constitution, said in a radio interview.

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher yesterday rejected a proposal that air-launched nuclear weapons be stationed in united Germany.

"New weapons are not what we need. What is really necessary is the removal of short-range nuclear weapons and nuclear artillery," he told the Cologne Express newspaper.

Baltics hope to crack Moscow's indifference

Gorbachev, Bush urged to support republics' cause

TALLINN, USSR, May 13, (AP): The presidents of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have travelled back in history, recreating a 56-year-old Baltic bloc they hope will crack Moscow's stony indifference to their declarations of independence.

"We must give a hand to one another, these little nations of Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia, because in history during a difficult period we always helped one another," President Arnold Ruutel of Estonia said yesterday.

Ruutel spoke to reporters at Toompea Palace, an 18th century pink-and-white building on a hill overlooking old Tallinn, Estonia's seaside capital, after he and his presidential colleagues held a Baltic summit.

Ruutel, President Vytautas Landsbergis of Lithuania and Anatoly Gorbunov, president of Latvia, signed a document titled "The Declaration on Unity and Co-operation of the Lithuanian Republic, Latvian Republic, and Estonia Republic."

The paper re-establishes the Council of Baltic States to work toward the republics' "governmental independence."

Baltic state representatives set up the council in September 1934 in Geneva under an agreement of "unity and co-operation." A 1971 Soviet history book said the alliance became "a hotbed of anti-Soviet agitation."

Quit USSR move

Sanctions not working

MOSCOW, May 13, (AP): If President Mikhail Gorbachev imposed strict sanctions on Lithuania in hopes of scaring other republics away from pressing for independence, it's not working.

The sight of Lithuania suffering under a Kremlin embargo on fuel, manufactured goods and raw materials has prompted the other two Baltic republics, Latvia and Estonia, to be more careful in phrasing their demands for independence. They have set unspecified transition periods, but have nonetheless declared their firm intention to leave the Soviet Union.

In other republics, activists are copying the Baltics' early independence steps. "I think in half a year we'll see that not only the Baltic republics but some other republics — first of all the Caucasus republics — will say they want real independence," said sociologist Peteris Lakis, a leader of the Latvian People's Front political movement.

On May 6, representatives of People's Fronts in eight republics met with several reform movements from Russia in Kiev to form a union of democratic forces "to help republics quit the USSR ... and to ensure the empire disintegrates peacefully," according to Rukh, the Ukrainian People's Front.

Gorbachev has said he believes splitting the Soviet Union would bring massive violence, worse than that of the 1966-76 cultural revolution in China, when radical leftists tried to purge that country of bourgeois influence.

The Soviet leader has pledged to prevent that from happening but indicated he wants to avoid a violent

crackdown. Two weeks ago in Sverdlovsk, he told citizens: "Some say, 'let this empire fall apart, while others say, ... we need to restore order with an iron fist.' Neither has any connection to serious policy."

Across the Soviet Union, other regions are rejecting Kremlin authority.

● The parliament of the Caucasus Republic of Georgia has demanded negotiations on independence. Pro-independence parties are campaigning for seats in the Georgian parliament.

● Neighbouring Azerbaijan exploded in virtual armed revolt against Kremlin control in January and remains under military control. Moscow moved in forces to quell the republic's battles with Armenia over a disputed enclave.

● The Armenian parliament has defied the Kremlin and ordered local draftees to remain in Armenia to work on rebuilding areas wrecked by the 1988 earthquake.

● In the Ukrainian agricultural and industrial heartland, where Moscow most fears nationalism, a pro-independence political party has formed. In Lvov, activists won control of the city council in a recent election.

● In Moldova, Mircea Snegur won the presidency from Communist Party chief Pnyur Luchinsky with the backing of advocates of greater autonomy or independence. He has called on his republic to refuse to support Gorbachev's blockade of Lithuania.

● Even in Russia, the republic's parliament will consider a "sovereignty" resolution at the session that begins May 16.

Ceausescu tortured to death

PARIS, May 13, (AP): Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu died under the torture of soldiers seeking the numbers and access codes of foreign bank accounts, a French newspaper says.

The weekly *Journal du Dimanche* quoted an unidentified Interior Ministry official as saying Ceausescu was tortured after a military-civilian tribunal secretly sentenced him to death Dec 25.

"Nicolae died under torture," the official was quoted as telling two *Journal du Dimanche* reporters not far from the Tergoviste military base where the trial took place.

"The soldiers were trying to get their hands on three briefcases that contained the numbers and access codes of foreign bank accounts," the official said. "He (Ceausescu) had a heart attack before speaking."

The newspaper goes on sale today. The advance text of its story was released to the Associated Press yesterday.

The official's statements were denied in the newspaper report by Vice Premier Gelu Voicila, the bearded chief of the tribunal that sentenced to death Ceausescu and his wife, Elena.

Elena Ceausescu was not tortured, the official said.

The statements seemed sure to add to growing doubts about the Romanian government's official version that the couple were executed by firing squad immediately after sentencing.



Students rally

Two masked Soviet students set fire to a book by Lenin during a rally yesterday in front of Moscow University. (Reuters wirephoto)

Shrine of Fatima Thousands flock

LISBON, May 13, (AP): Thousands of pilgrims gathered at the Roman Catholic shrine of Fatima today, and many said the Virgin Mary predicted the demise of communism when she appeared to children there in 1917.

Pilgrims and clerics from around the world came to Fatima, a village in central Portugal about 140 kms (90 miles) north of Lisbon, to mark the day 73 years ago when three shepherd children said they saw the Mother of Christ in an oak tree.

Fatima has become one of Roman Catholicism's most important shrines. It is also a focus for Catholic anti-communists, since the children said the Virgin told them: "If my wishes are fulfilled Russia will be reconverted and there will be peace. If not, Russia will spread her errors throughout the world."

The three children said the Virgin appeared to them seven times between May 13 and October 13, 1917, the year of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia.

Cardinal Joachim Meisner, the Archbishop of Cologne, West Germany, who led the service at Fatima today, told the Portuguese newspaper *Publico* that the events in Fatima had a "deep link" with the fall of communist regimes in Eastern Europe last year.

De Klerk on mission to convince Europe

ATHENS, May 13, (Reuters): South African President F. W. De Klerk has six weeks to persuade Europe he has unconditionally repudiated more than 40 years of Afrikaner racism known as apartheid.

Unless the 12 European Economic Community (EEC) leaders decide at their summit in Dublin on June 25 that he has given irrefutable evidence of his sincerity, it might be at least a further six months before he could reap a tangible economic reward.

Some people, including sources close to him on his mission to eight EEC countries and Switzerland, believe De Klerk cannot wait as long as that.

"If he does not get recognition from Europe during this trip, he could be in real trouble," said one source on De Klerk's official Boeing 707.

The specially-equipped aircraft spent the weekend at Athens airport while De Klerk rested for two days on a friend's yacht before flying to Lisbon tomorrow to resume his 18-day tour.

Many of South Africa's ruling white Afrikaners regard him as a traitor because of his agreement to negotiate with blacks on ending 350 years of white supremacy and 42 years of Afrikaner domination.

Members of De Klerk's ruling National Party largely accept that he could not win a new whites-only election, but some, at present only a few, fear that if he fails to show the benefits of reform quickly he could lose control of the government.

If the European Economic Community does not judge in June that De Klerk deserves a reward, it will be at least six months before the 12 leaders get another chance to grade his performance and issue a more favourable report card.

De Klerk has visibly enjoyed being the first South Africa leader since World War Two to travel through Europe without having to defend a policy which the world finds repugnant.

He beamed on the steps of President Francois Mitterrand's Elysee Palace and revelled in a high-speed motorcade led through Paris by motorcycles with sirens screaming.

From Lisbon, De Klerk travels to West Germany, Britain, Brussels, Spain and Italy in his bid to muster an EEC majority for a softening of the community's anti-apartheid restrictions on trade and technology exchanges with South Africa.

He will try to exercise his personal persuasiveness to convince Europe's leaders that it is time to stop penalising South Africa and start encouraging apartheid's replacement through a negotiated political settlement.

The community has called for clear evidence of profound and irreversible change before it will consider easing sanctions, including a ban on new investment in South Africa.

De Klerk said in France and again in Greece that he had met that condition by repealing many apartheid laws, releasing Nelson Mandela from prison, ending a 30-year-old ban on the African National Congress (ANC) and beginning talks with the ANC on a format for full-scale negotiations.

Sources travelling with him said Greek Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis would, after meeting De Klerk on Friday, back EEC moves to relax curbs.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has already enraged her EEC colleagues by unilaterally suspending some sanctions. She favours a co-ordinated move to reward De Klerk for what he has already done.

Portugal, long one of Pretoria's best friends in Europe, is also ready to vote for a phased reduction of sanctions.

But it is Mitterrand, the sources said, who could be the key to a South African victory in the court of EEC opinion.

Relief efforts have temporarily averted threat of famine in Ethiopia

MASSAWA, Ethiopia, May 13, (AP): A huge, disparate and partly obscure relief effort appears to have temporarily averted the threat of famine in northern Ethiopia this year.

But if the apocalyptic horseman has been stayed from a sweep across the barren mountains and highlands of this war- and drought-stricken land, his specter lingers on.

Seven months ago, the United Nations warned that more than 4 million people were at risk of dying from hunger in Ethiopia's four northern provinces — Eritrea, Tigre, Wollo and Gondar.

The threat was compared with the great famine of 1984-85, which killed more than a million people in the same region and raised the consciousness of the world.

Ghastly, haunting images of skeletal children flickered across the TV screens on every continent as the famine deepened six years ago. The pictures prompted a huge but belated flow of aid, too late to help many starving people but averting an even greater calamity.

This year the response came quickly, albeit with less fanfare.

As soon as it became apparent in late 1989 that the annual rains had failed once more and harvest fields were turning into parched plots, the United Nations, individual governments, private relief agencies and others began gearing up.

The others included Emergency Food Distribution Organisations operated by separate insurgent forces in Eritrea and Tigre that are waging civil wars against the government in those provinces.

"The situation is very tenuous and fragile, but things look very good right now," said Paul Mitchell, a spokesman for the UN's world food

programme, based in Rome. "I would add, however, that there's no room for complacency."

Mitchell was interviewed recently in Nairobi, Kenya, following an inspection trip to Ethiopia. His agency is responsible for getting surplus food, donated primarily by Western nations, to drought and disaster areas around the world.

Mitchell's assessment was borne out by visits to Eritrea and Tigre, the two most seriously affected provinces, by this and other reporters in recent weeks.

Health minister opens Sixth Nursing Week

Environment protection emphasised

KUWAIT, May 13, (Kuna): The International Nurse Day and the Sixth Nursing Week opened yesterday under the patronage of HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah under the theme of "Environment Protection is a National Responsibility."

Health Minister Abdulrazzaq Yusuf Al Abdulrazzaq, who deputised for HH the Crown Prince and Premier, said that the increasing awareness among citizens in recent years on a danger-free environment was a reason why this theme was chosen for this year.

The minister affirmed that safety of the environment and public health are closely connected.

Skills

He pointed out that realising this fact, the World Health Organisation (WHO) called for protecting the environment as a way to provide public health world-wide.

Abdulrazzaq said that scientific and technological advancement in the various fields of life has brought about a number of

environmental pollutants.

Chairman of Kuwait Nursing Society Mrs Mariam Al Ragum emphasised the need to protect the environment from causes of pollution and destruction.

She said that society aims at upgrading the nursing profession, which receives strong support from HH the Crown Prince and Premier, the Ministries of Social Affairs and Labour and Health.

Head of the nursing week's organising committee Safiya Abdulla, for her part, touched on the ways by which the environ-

ment can be preserved, asserting the media's role in promoting environmental awareness among the public.

The week's programme includes a number of topics relating to the development of skills of nurses.

The opening festivities were attended by Social Affairs and Labour undersecretary Essa Yassin. Kuna's board chairman and director-general Barges Hmoud Al Barges, Health undersecretary Nael Al Naqib, a number of Arab ambassadors and senior Health Ministry officials.

Industrial expansion will harm environment: Hamad

Change in strategy required

THE chairman and director general of Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development Abdullah Al Hamad has warned against the evil consequences which might result from industrial expansion in Arab countries.

In a study over the "economic effects of environmental topics on the Arab oil producing countries" which has been published recently in "The Oil and Arab Co-operation" magazine,

Hamad said that the effects of industrial expansion will extend beyond the relevant borders by catching up with neighbouring countries. He added that pertinent effects will not hurt human beings only but will also negatively effect the economic, touristic and fishing activities.

He added that energy generation units in the Arab countries had been significantly developed since World War II, but environmental factors had not been considered. He further said that the energy issue as well as the universal environment and its effects on the Arab countries had been debated, but no special concern was given to traditional Arab environmental problems.

Environmental pollution problems in the oil producing Arab countries could be attributed to crude oil and natural gas which still constitutes the backbone of the economies of these countries.

In this context, Hamad has confirmed that the high revenues of oil particularly upon the

adjustment of oil prices during the period of 1973 - 1984 and from 1979 - 1980 has considerably affected the levels and economic development styles in the Arab countries, whereas Gross National Product (GNP) rose from \$71 billion in 1973 to about \$406 billion in 1980 and reached its peak in 1981 with about \$434 billion. High oil revenues benefited both Arab oil producing and non-producing countries.

Non-oil producing countries benefitted by exporting their commodities to producing ones. Financial support given to its budgets by the producing countries in addition to project financing which had been extended by the Arab Development Institutions also helped, Hamad said.

Retreat

Hamad also said that demand retreat for oil in the industrial countries constituted a sign of the success of several measures which had been adopted by these countries aiming to curtail the demand for energy in general and oil in particular. He added that such a retreat effected the revenues of Arab oil countries, but he confirmed that oil and gas as primary sources for energy could not be alternated in the foreseen future.

Arab countries still possess 57 per cent of world oil reserve and about 20 per cent of gas, but the current menace which faces Arab oil countries is now to adapt its economies to keep abreast with world environmental attitudes in order to augment its benefits from its oil and gas resources in

the long term, Hamad said.

On the other hand, environmental awareness has imposed exciting changes in the oil derivatives market the first of which was represented by the drop in demand for heavy oil and the increasing demand for high octane rating which is free of lead. This has entailed incorporating essential changes in the designs of related refineries which coincided with the increase of capital costs of finance that are required for upgrading of octane rating and getting rid of sulphur, Hamad added.

Several indicators show that natural gas will be the main energy required for industry and for house purposes in the future, as gas has proved to be in line with the firm environmental measures, Hamad said. He noted that the demand for oil in the countries of Europe's Organisation of Economic Co-operation (OECD) has been reduced from 240 millions tons in 1977 to about 117 millions tons in 1987, but the demand for gas increased from 118 million tons to 126 million tons during the same period. Gas consumption will increase by the increasing of its flow from the Soviet Union and Algeria.

The study also confirmed that most of the polluted industries in the Arab countries were represented by the cement industries, power stations, oil refineries, fertiliser plants and paper plants.

Rector denies negative impact

KUWAIT, May 13, (Kuna): Kuwait University rector Dr. Shueib Abdulla Shueib today disputed press reports which claimed that the academic courses system which was implemented in the academic year-1986/87 has had a negative impact on students' performance.

Shueib argued that the data and figures that were leaked to the press by sources other than the university itself were in stark contradiction with the original university figures which in reality refute such allegations.

The rector told Kuna in a statement the issue had been discussed by the committee of faculty deans who met three times for the purpose over the past four days.

The committee reviewed proposals put forth by an expert committee concerning the courses system and its pros and cons, he said.

Citing detail figures, Shueib indicated that under the courses system the 1986/87 academic batch had performed fairly well and that the disparity with the figures of the previous year was too negligible to indicate an adverse effect of the courses system.

Shueib, however, pointed out that the university administration is continuously reviewing the academic regulations for upgrading and amendment purposes.

He stressed that university students performed generally well in the first semester this year, adding that the university was also conducting an extensive study to evaluate the performance of the 1986 batch.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Courtesy cable

KUWAIT, May 13, (Kuna): His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah yesterday received a courtesy cable from Secretary-General of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters Dr. Farouq Al Omar.

Omar, acting on behalf of participants in a seminar held here last week on Arab cultural periodicals, thanked HH and the government for hosting the event and the due attention Kuwait pays to the Arab cultural development.

His Highness the Crown Prince sent Dr Omar a reply cable, expressing support for the organisation of such intellectual gatherings which he said strengthened inter-Arab cultural co-operation and enrich the nation's thoughts.

Premier receives

KUWAIT, May 13, (Kuna): HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah yesterday received at his diwan in Bayan Palace Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber.

HH also received Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed, Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs Diyar Al Othman, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed, Minister of Oil Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Athbi, Adviser at HH the Amir's office Mohammad Suleiman Sayid Ali and Governor of Central Bank of Kuwait Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Saud.

Council reaction

KUWAIT, May 13, (Kuna): Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber yesterday commended the great response by citizens toward running for membership of the recently-declared National Council.

Sri Lankan envoy

THE Ambassador of Sri Lanka Latif Sherifdeen wishes to thank all well-wishers and friends who had sent greetings for Ramadan. He regrets his inability to thank them individually.



Technology training

Five intensified training courses were held recently on the sideline of Gulf Experts Systems Symposium which has been organised by the faculty of technology studies of Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) under the patronage of the Ministry of Higher Education and the chairman of PAAET Dr. Ali Abdullah Al Shamlan.

The training which took place at Kuwait Meridian Hotel was attended by about 50 researchers representing the Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Communication, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) and Kuwait University (KU) in addition to a number of researchers from Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

Computer security

Anti-virus protection imperative, says expert

By Diana Abou Haider
Arab Times staff

ALL ministries and companies should have anti-virus policies to protect their computer programmes and data, said Charles Preston, a computer security consultant who gave a seminar on virus prevention and control last week.

"The number of viruses and the chances of getting them are quite high, if it doesn't happen this week or this month, it might happen by the end of this year or the next," he added.

Preston told the 41 participants from Kuwait and other Gulf countries that the first step in setting up an effective policy against these destructive miniature programmes is to present the matter of virus protection to the management and win their support.

"Step two is doing a risk assessment study. You may not have the money or the time to protect all your machines exactly the same way," said Preston explaining that virus prevention should be cost-effective. "It would not make sense to spend \$4,000 to protect data that is worth \$1,000 on a PC. You must first identify the machines that have the most valuable or confidential information, those that are the most susceptible to viruses and those that the virus would create the most problems in."

The computer expert said that once the identification process is over, a company could choose a policy that suits its specific needs. "A company's

policy could prohibit its employees from using unapproved software in their computers." Educating users about the new policy is essential because they will tend to violate the rules if they don't understand them.

"A policy should also specify how employees should act if they believe they have a virus or if it is determined that they do. In some cases people may do more damage to their files than the virus itself by needlessly destroying them believing that it is the appropriate thing to do," explained Preston adding that once a company has a procedures manual and clear instructions on what measures to take in the case of a certain type of virus, it has most of the elements of an effective policy.

Protection against viruses is available in the form of special switches and programmes. "Some anti-virus programmes are quite effective, but no one programme is effective against all kinds of viruses. Used in combination, they give the best production," Preston said.

Policies should also specify how to investigate a virus case in order to determine where it came from and prevent future outbreaks. "A review of the policy's performance after a real outbreak is needed to evaluate how it worked in practice and probably make some changes," concluded Preston.

The seminar was organised by the National Consulting Bureau and the Sultan Systems.

Traffic directors to meet in Qatar

KUWAIT, May 13, (Kuna): A delegation from the public traffic administration, headed by Brigadier Abdul Hameed Al Hajji, will attend the 8th session of the GCC traffic directors scheduled for May 15 and 16 in Qatar.

Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah issued a statement yesterday saying that the formation of a Kuwaiti delegation will consist of Col Abdullah Al Eidan, Lieut Col Mostafa Jomaa, Lieut Col Faisal Al Khaldi and Major Ahmad Abdullah Al Sharqawi.

The traffic awareness committee, on the other hand, will hold a meeting followed by the GCC traffic directors meeting and will be attended by Lieut Col Mostafa Jomaa and Major Ahmad Al Sharqawi.

Meanwhile, the public relations department at the public traffic administration have provided the GCC general secretariat with a report on activities of the 7th unified GCC Traffic Week which was held in Kuwait on March 3-9 under the theme "Traffic Safety for Children."

A paper was also presented on the occasion which included six subjects and titles proposed for the 8th unified GCC Traffic Week in addition to other studies on the behaviours of the GCC drivers.

The public traffic administration will participate in the traffic exhibition which will be held during the conference.

Meanwhile, the director-general of the General Traffic Department, Brigadier Abdul Hameed Al Hajji has urged all parents not to leave their infants inside their cars while they go shopping.

Suicide

A SRI LANKAN maid committed suicide yesterday in Shuwaikha area by throwing herself from top of a building. The maid, identified as Yoda Bjumped from the roof of the building and died instantly according to a press release by the Interior Ministry. Securitymen rushed to the scene and the body was referred for examination to a forensic doctor. Police are investigating the circumstances leading to her death, the release said.



Sewage overflow

Sewage pipes recently exploded at the 4th Ring Road opposite the camp of National Guards and near the premises of the Ministry of



Electricity and Water. Sewage water overflowed on the road and hindered traffic.

Physician warns against anti-sterility drugs

DR Fahed Al Abdulhadi, from the Maternity Hospital at the Ministry of Public Health was quoted as saying that the hospital receives about 1000 cases of sterility, of these, 28 per cent are Kuwaitis, 57 per cent Arabs and the balance foreigners.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that the relevant field studies indicated that about 70 per cent of these cases could be attributed to various factors in women, 11 per cent to men while another 11 per cent to reasons pertaining to both the man and the woman. He added that about 51 per cent of the women had their ovaries reactivated while about 17 per cent had been surgically treated. He said that about 11 per cent sterility cases among men had been successfully treated while another 7 per cent were being

transferred to test tube baby division for taking the appropriate action.

Meanwhile, the official has warned against the administering of some drugs sold by the pharmacies for treating sterility without the consultation of the physicians, hinting that such drugs may cause side effects.

He disclosed that recently a study had been conducted on impregnating women who had their wombs removed by surgery.

Experiments

Abdulhadi said that the idea of such a study depends on an attempt to transplant a fertile ovary in a specific place in the woman's body which must be capable to accommodate the growth of such an ovary. He said that he believed that undertaking these experiments may not con-

tradict with the religious rules, as these experiments might contribute to solving the sterility problem.

On the other hand, Abdulhadi disclosed that the Maternity Hospital will for the first time this month begin to use lasers in treating women who suffers from diseases of the neck of the womb as well as other organs. He added that the hospital has recently tendered for obtaining of such an apparatus which will cost about KD 25,000.

He commented that the Maternity Hospital, like other hospitals in the country are suffering from a lack in the number of physicians. There about 40 doctors working at the moment in the hospital while the adequate number should be about 67 doctors, the official said. To redress this shortcoming Abdulhadi has

suggested the forming of specialised committee which should undertake the redistribution of physicians among the hospitals and the health centres available in the health areas. He suggested enhancing physicians expertise, the streamlining of the current distribution system in order to allow each doctor to serve at least six months in each division to upgrade his efficiency.

Commenting on some ladies complaints on conducting Caesarean sections, the official said that the Medical Commission at the Maternity Hospital is resorting to this type of delivery for certain health considerations and for the interest of the mother, adding that the pertinent decision in this connection was not so easy, as any Caesarean operation should be justified and set out in the relevant report.

Hired security use at KU successful

THE director of the security and safety department at Kuwait University Sulaiman Jum'a has said that use of hired security personnel by contracting local security companies has been positively successful.

He told a local daily that security officers have clear instructions and obligations which they carried out efficiently.

Jum'a said the department personnel depend on students help to sort out minor problems, pointing out that the security guards currently operating at the university exits are 44, and officers 171.

He said that all co-operated successfully to maintain security control and protection over all university installations and facilities, adding that it is important for students to abide by the security instructions and co-operate with our staff to ensure that things progress smoothly.

Expansion

The need for more security staff arose following the expansion of the university sites in different areas in the country and that this was coupled by the increase in the number of equipment and round-the-clock protection, the official said.

He highlighted the efforts exerted by security staff for maintaining a durable state of security and safety at the university sites, and that if they failed to play their role effectively they would not renew their recruitment contract.

Only 8 per cent of the old security guards have been retained on the service for reasons of efficiency of performance due to long experience in the field, Jum'a said.

He urged students to step up co-operation with the security personnel and never to take their intervention as a breach of their personal freedom. Security guards have a strict set of instructions which they have to honour and bore all sorts of hardship and difficulty to do their duties well, Jum'a said.

KD 30m annual MEW receipts

THE assistant undersecretary of MEW for consumers affairs Ali Humoud Al Finaihi has said that annual collected electricity and water bills amounted to KD 30 million. He added that annual consumption of electricity and water costs KD 201 million but KD 170 million is covered by government subsidisation.

Power production reached 19,500.99 kilowatt/h in 1988 while individual consumption of electricity reached 10,000 kilowatt/h per year averaging 27.5 kilowatt a day for each individual.

Finaihi pointed out that a consumers affairs control will be opened in Dahiya Sabah Al Salem within the coming few days. The control will serve about 10,000 consumers in Qurain, Sabhan Industrial Area, and Dahiya Sabah Al Salem. The control will also serve about 16,000 consumers in future after completing all housing projects in Qurain, he said.

Research under way to step up meat production

THE deputy director-general for environmental and biosciences Nizar Mulla Hussein at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research has said that all research activities currently under way explore the possibilities available to step up local production of meat to support the national food security strategy.

He told a local daily that efforts are currently at the Livestock Transport and Trade Company's farm to use modern techniques for sheep raising under ordinary Kuwaiti conditions to step up meat production in the country.

He added that the project involved contributions from the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science, the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources and the Livestock Transport and Trading Company.

Costs

The project aims among other things to reduce the cost of rearing meat producing animals, step up productivity, better manage animal farms and employ modern scientific techniques to achieve this end.

He said that sheep selection factors included hereditary elements which served the process of interbreeding meat producing animals to get the best possible results under local climate conditions.

He said this project accelerated reproduction of lambs and that hormones have been used to step up mating among animals belonging to recognised quality species of sheep.

He added that successful results have been achieved and the reproduced sheep showed great performance and satisfactory weight and growth rates over the first few weeks following their birth.

Sheikh Zayed in Tokyo

TOKYO, May 13, (Kuna): President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan arrived here today from Beijing on a four-day official visit.

Sheikh Zayed's itinerary includes a meeting tomorrow with Japanese Emperor Akihito and Japanese businessmen to be followed on Tuesday by a meeting with Japanese Premier Toshiki Kaifu.

Japanese government and press today welcomed the visit of the Arab guest which highlights the distinguished relations between Japan and UAE.

In a TV interview, director-general of the Middle East and African Affairs Department at the Japanese Foreign Ministry Makoto Watanabe elaborated the importance of Sheikh Zayed's visit in boosting "Yomiuri Shimbun" newspaper, published here today said that the UAE represents a very important country to Japan, hoping that the visit would help in promoting friendship and understanding between the two countries.

It added that Japan imports more than 20 per cent of its oil needs from the UAE.

The paper also noted that it supports the government plan to host 80 important figures from UAE specialised in various fields during the next year.

Expatriate haj pilgrims

EXPATRIATE pilgrims residing in Kuwait will be allowed this year to reside in Kuwaiti camps situated in Mina during the pilgrimage, the daily Al-Sayassah quoted an official Source from Pilgrimage Affairs Committee at Kuwait Ministry of Awkaf and Islamic Affairs.

He added that the relation between the pilgrims and owners of pilgrimages convoys are subject to the relevant contract prepared by the Pilgrimage Affairs Committee. The ministry has warned the pilgrim convoy owners against the use of old vehicles during the pilgrimage season, referring that the relevant cars should be post-1980 model.

UK Energy Secretary Wakeham arrives

Bilateral co-operation talks

BRITISH Energy Secretary John Wakeham arrived Kuwait yesterday, heading a delegation of UK businessmen at the start of a Gulf tour, which will take him later to Qatar.

A spokesman for the UK Department of Energy told Kuna in London yesterday that Wakeham will call on Kuwaiti

leaders to discuss furthering bilateral co-operation between the two countries in the fields of energy.

His main talks in Kuwait will be with Kuwaiti Minister of Oil Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah. The British minister is accompanied by representatives from leading oil and gas service com-

panies in the UK and the director of Petroleum, Science and Technology Institute in Edinburgh, Scotland.

During his stay in Kuwait, Wakeham will also address a meeting of the British business forum, a group of UK businessmen interested in promoting co-operation with the Middle East,

the spokesman for the Department of Energy added.

He noted that UK firms have gained wide experience in the Middle East markets.

"The main purpose of the goodwill mission is to look for new opportunities for British companies in the region," the spokesman went on.

Wakeham will hold similar talks in Qatar during his visit which begins tomorrow at the conclusion of his stay in Kuwait.

British Minister of State for Energy Peter Morrison visited Kuwait earlier this year, leading another high-level delegation of representatives of British oil companies.

Amir receives invitation to extraordinary summit

Lebanese speaker received

KUWAIT, May 13, (Kuna): HH the Amir today received at 10.00 am the Iraqi Interior Minister Samir Abdul Wahab Al Sheikhly, who handed the Amir an invitation from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to attend the extraordinary Arab summit scheduled to be held in Baghdad on May 28.

The audience was attended by Kuwaiti Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah and the Iraqi ambassador to Kuwait. HH also received at 11.00 am

speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Hussein Al Husseini on the occasion of his visit to the country.

The meeting was attended by State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed and the Lebanese ambassador to Kuwait.

Sheikhly left Baghdad early Sunday to tour five GCC countries to hand their leaders invitations from President Saddam Hussein to attend the emergency Arab summit, due to be held in

Baghdad on May 28, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

Countries to be visited by the envoy, besides Kuwait, are Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the UAE.

Saudi Arabia, sixth member of the GCC states, was visited yesterday by Iraqi Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz who conveyed an invitation to King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia to attend the emergency summit, the agency recalled.

Legal Clinic

SHOULD you have a legal, labour-related or similar problem, kindly send your questions to: Arab Times Legal Clinic. Our Kuwaiti lawyer, Khaled Taber, replies to readers' queries. Write to Legal Clinic, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait or fax your questions on Fax No. 4847495.

ACCORDING to the provisions of Article 7, second paragraph, of my employment contract, I am entitled to sick leave as follows:

One month: full pay
15 days: 3/4 pay
15 days: 1/2 pay
15 days: 1/4 pay
15 days: without pay

As I am entitled to, can this untitled total number of days sick leave with pay be convertible into cash and given to me after completion of five years contract?

Is there any pertinent provision of the Kuwait Labour Law that supports the conversion of untitled sick leave into cash after end of contract or service of the second party?

Please clarify.

Ruben L. Salubre.

SICK LEAVE is given in the event of an employee having to take off due to illness. There is no provision that supports the conversion of unused sick leave into cash.

The provision for sick leave is made so that a person, who falls ill, can be compensated by his employer for the period he is unable to work.

For example, a woman can take maternity leave at the time of the birth of her child. A woman who is not pregnant cannot take maternity leave simply because she is entitled to.

If you fall ill, and take off, you must be paid according to the terms specified in your contract. If you are in good health, you cannot convert that into cash.

I AM an Indian Muslim staying with my family in Kuwait and drawing a salary of KD 650. I would like to legally adopt my brother's son who was born in Kuwait in March. Could you let me know the procedure for adopting a child?

Y. A. Bedawala

ADOPTION is forbidden by the law in Kuwait. Article 167 of the Personal Law forbids adoption, even if the infant is an orphan or his paternity is not known. In your case, your brother is in Kuwait.

There is no way to adopt a child in Kuwait.

The law, however, permits a person to bear the expenses of a child's upbringing. You can pay for his schooling, food, clothes and other expenses.

I CAME to Kuwait in 1982 and was sponsored by my company. After working for the first two years, I went on vacation and spent three months in my country. When I returned, I was made to sign a new employment contract. Again, I went for three months leave, and on my return, I signed a new

contract.

The third time, when I was applying for vacation, the personnel department advised me to buy my own air ticket. Previously, the air ticket was given by my company. They said they have withdrawn the air ticket because I was a "locally recruited employee."

I have rendered eight years continuous service.

I would like to know if there is any law that the length of service can be cut or cancelled if an employee goes on vacation exceeding the allotted number of days.

Name withheld.

FIRST OF ALL, I'd like to say that if the agreed vacation duration is not three months, and you extended the leave, then they have the right to terminate you according to article 55 of the labour law without getting benefits.

The law says that if a person does not report to duty for seven consecutive days, an employer has the right to fire him.

If both parties have agreed to three months vacation every two years, then when an employee rejoins duty, it will be considered as continuous employment with the company. In such a case, the company must pay the benefits as one contract at the end of service. This has been a ruling by a court of law.

About air ticket, if they have been paying over a period of time, it becomes common practice and you can ask them for the air ticket, and therefore an accepted part of the contract.

Local recruitment is not a moot point. This depends on the agreement between the two parties. Even if you were locally recruited, the contract is binding on both parties, in addition to usual practices which have been followed.

I WAS recruited by a private company in 1976 as a sales representative on a two-year renewable contract. I am still working for this company. In 1984, the company established a sister concern in Kuwait to diversify their business. I have requested my employers to transfer me to this organisation. This will mean change of residence although the sponsors are the same for both companies.

Will this be considered as a break of service? Will this affect my indemnity? Should I claim indemnity before joining the sister organisation? I was asked by the management to sign an Arabic letter. I am told this is given to employees whose services have been terminated. Should I sign?

S.N.

IF THE sponsor is the same, there is no need to change the residence. But if the sister company is in the name of a different

sponsor, then the residence will change.

If the contract says that you have been transferred to the sister concern, it means you are under the same sponsor... unless you have been asked to sign a new contract.

My response is based on the information given in your letter. I would like to read the documents before answering any of your queries, which are not clear. I'd like to read the documents before commenting.

I WOULD like to thank you for sparing your time to answer queries in your column. I have enclosed two clippings marked (A) and (B), which contradict each other regarding indemnity and gratuity according to the Kuwaiti Labour Law.

(A) "All companies, local and foreign, have to abide by the Kuwaiti Labour Law, as they are covered by the law. Your payment has to be according to the labour law — half month's salary means 15/30 days — the right gratuity."

(B) "Indemnity on salary must be calculated by 26 working days, whether you work full or part-time for the same company.... It must be divided by 26 days; there is no other way."

Your clarification would be appreciated.

Huseini

IN YOUR columns, you have stated that gratuity is 15/30 days of monthly salary; according to other information the recognised legal fraction for gratuity is 15/26 days because Friday is not classified as a working day. Surely there are no two possible solutions if the law definitely states 15/26, your column is most informative.

C.D.

THERE is no difference. In the first query — I am defining a month for benefits... one month's salary and the fraction thereof that must be paid to an employee.

The law says half month's wages for the first five years of service and one month's salary for the subsequent days. If it is thus mentioned in the law, the period can be calculated on 30 working days.

In (A), it was divided on 30, half month will be 15 days. But if I calculate on 26 days, I mean 26 working days, half of which is 13 days. If I add two rest days or Fridays, it would be 15, which is half a month.

Actually, the interpretation varies to derive at the hourly and daily payment rates as Fridays are not working days.

When I mention a month for gratuity, I am referring to the labour law which says "one month" and "half a month". My replies are based on the law.

No smoking at airport

THE Public Administration of Civil Aviation decided to prohibit smoking inside passenger halls of the airport. The administration prohibited smoking at Gates No. 21 and 22 of the Airport 2 (new airport) and removed the ashtrays from these places as an experiment. Stickers and posters calling on passengers to stop smoking in these places are displayed and the decision to prohibit smoking will be applied at all gates (halls), very soon.

Joint meeting

RIYADH, May 13, (Kuna): The fifth session of the Joint Iraqi-Saudi Commission for Economic, Commercial, Scientific and Technical Co-operation today starts its work here and will be co-chaired by the two countries' oil ministers.

The commission's three-day meeting will discuss economic, technical and scientific issues.

Iraqi Oil Minister, Eassam Al Chalabi, who arrived here last night, will also discuss with his Saudi counterpart Misham Nazer latest developments in the international oil markets.

Agriculture meet

ABU DHABI, May 13, (Kuna): Agriculture and fisheries resources ministers of the GCC states hold their fifth meeting in Saudi Arabia May 15-16.

The United Arab Emirates Agriculture and Fisheries Resources undersecretary Hamad Abdullah Suleiman headed for Tabouk (Saudi Arabia) yesterday to take part in the two-day preparatory meeting to make agenda which will discuss major policies of the GCC joint agricultural programmes and other related issues.

AWI to help present Arab civilisation

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

THE Paris-based Arab World Institute is stepping up efforts to improve French public opinion about the Arab world which is currently heavily influenced by dramatic events in Lebanon and Palestine.

The institute's president Dr Edgard Pisani told a news conference Saturday that a new publication, permanent exhibition and open debates on contemporary Arab issues are being launched to help paint a veritable and comprehensive picture of the Arab civilisation.

"We would like to show that there is more to the Arab world than the Palestinian drama and the Lebanese crisis," Pisani said.

In an effort to reach different sections of the public the institute is shortly to start a magazine suitable for teachings at all levels in French schools. Negotiations are under way with the industrial and other sectors of economy to introduce a programme of lectures to familiarise French workers with Arab culture.

The institute is also seeking to bring Arab architecture and manuscripts, two distinctive features of the Arab civilisation, to the attention of European public by mounting a permanent exhibition of transparencies portraying the most prominent works in both domains.

In these efforts France, said Pisani, is motivated by the traditional cultural exchange between the Orient and West and the fact that France and its neigh-

bours in the Middle East are jointly responsible for "this sensitive area" of the world. France is also the home of three million people of Arab origin, he said.

The financing for the projects and the annual budget of \$20 million currently come mainly from France and Kuwait, although several Arab leaders have pledged funds to help cover the costs.

In the two years since its inception the institute has made a positive contribution towards a better understanding of the Arabs, Pisani said.

"I am not saying that we changed the idea the French have about the Arabs but we have put a hurdle in the way of forces that draw the Arabs away from the Westeners," the Frenchman said.

He added that the Frenchman

Five-year plan investments at KD 6.5 - 7b

Mahmoud Abdeen

THE total investment estimates of the five year plan 1990-1994-1995 range between KD 6.5 billion with an annual average of KD 1.2 - 1.4 billion, the daily Al-Sayassah quoted reliable sources as saying.

The sources said that the contribution of the private sector is estimated at KD 1.2 billion while government investment will be around KD 6 billion.

Previously, the Minister of Planning Dr. Abdurrahman Al-Awadhi has estimated the expenditures to be allocated for structural projects during the next five years at KD 3.25 billion with about KD 600 - 650 million per annum.

Meanwhile, the daily said that it is expected that the investment position during the next five year plan will be boosted particularly in the light of the relevant expectations which refer that the oil prices will be enhanced to reach between US\$ 25 - 30 per barrel. Kuwait's projection plans were based on the oil prices of US\$ 15 per barrel, sources said.

Art exhibit

KUWAIT, May 13, (Kuna): Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saoud Mohammed Al-Ossaimi yesterday inaugurated the first art exhibition of Amnesty International (AI), which is the first exhibition in the Middle East.

Following the inauguration, Ossaimi toured the exhibition, which displays 69 pieces of art dealing with issues of human rights and prisoners of conscious all over the world.

They will be staging a FREE SEMINAR at Meridien Hotel on 14 May 90 at 6.30 p.m. All members of the public are cordially invited to attend.

Movie - style rape

SALMIYA was the scene of a movie-style rape incident in which the suspect kept watching the moves of his idol for a week before the time he set for committing his crime approached.

On the night of the incident, the suspect watched his prey disembark from the car of well-known actress at 1 am, and he followed her into the lift of the building where she lived as one of the residents, and as she walked out and opened the door of her flat, he pushed her inside and spent the night with her.

He stayed the overnight and left in the morning after a cup of coffee. The victim then told the police what had happened and security men managed to pick up him later.

Neighbours came up with the "brainstorming concept" that the cat must have mated with a possessed Tom.

The incident is worthy of the attention of scientists and analysis to drive off illogical explanations. Picture (left) shows the dead baby monkey and (right) its twin.

Engineers/Operators required

1. Computer Programmers
Basic or Fortran, DOS, knowledge and experience essential. Knowledge of Autocad and Autolisp is an advantage.

2. Computer Operators
Fast typing skill, knowledge of Lotus, DOS and Word Processing is essential.

3. Material Engineers
Mechanical
Electrical
Civil and Architectural
Instrumentation
All above should have knowledge of specs, submittals, Q.S. and bid evaluation is essential. Knowledge of Kuwait market is an advantage.

4. Design and Shop Drawing Senior Engineers
Civil - Structural, Concrete, Steel and infrastructure.
Mechanical - PHE, fire-fighting and piping, HVAC
Electrical - Cabling, Equipment, Instrumentation and Lighting
Architectural: Building, detailing, perspective, modelling.
Experiences obtained from Power Plants designs is an advantage.

Only qualified persons should apply.

All applications will be treated top confidential.

Applications should include C.V. and references.

P.O. Box 4539, Hawalli, 32076 Kuwait.

Salaries and benefits shall be highly satisfactory.

Saudi charity for weddings

A NUMBER of Saudi men reached an agreement to establish a charitable society to help youth who want to get married and to encourage the marriage of orphan girls, divorced women, widows and blind girls as well as normal marriages. The society will collect alms and donations from public which will be allocated for this purpose. The society will grant loans (10,000 Saudi riyals) to youths who want to get married beside 5,000 riyals as donation and will

additionally provide the place with furniture to hold wedding parties. A total of 214 youth benefitted from donations and loans extended by the society which reached about two million riyals as donations and over two million riyals as loans. The society paid 413,000 riyals as zakat to needy youth. About 700 youth registered their names and submitted applications to get marriage donations and loans that are expected to reach 10 million riyals.

They will be staging a FREE SEMINAR at Meridien Hotel on 14 May 90 at 6.30 p.m. All members of the public are cordially invited to attend.



STUDY IN AUSTRALIA IN 1990-91

You can still enroll in Australian universities, schools and colleges this year.

Representatives of:

Bond University
Charles Sturt University
Wollongong University
University College of Central Queensland
Holmes Business College
New South Wales State High Schools

are visiting Kuwait to offer enrolment for fee-paying students in

- Business Studies (Inc. MBA)
- Computing
- Engineering
- Law
- High School Programs
- Marketing
- Tourism and Travel
- Agriculture
- Health Sciences

and most other academic areas.

They will be staging a FREE SEMINAR at Meridien Hotel on 14 May 90 at 6.30 p.m. All members of the public are cordially invited to attend.

For the second time in 1990 a delegation of Australian educational representatives is visiting the Middle East, travelling to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and Dubai during the period 8 to 25 May.

The group comprises: Mr Leigh Hobbs of Bond University; Mr Jim Pratley of Charles Sturt University; Mr Eric Meadows of Wollongong University; Mr John Wilkinson of the University College of Central Queensland; Mr Steve Nagle of Holmes Business College; Mr Graham Drayton of the New South Wales Department of Education. Some of the delegation — Messrs Hobbs, Drayton and Meadows — were in the Middle East in January, following earlier exploratory visits by Mr Hobbs.

Mr Hobbs, who has organised and led both groups through his company, Australian Education Abroad, said the purposes of the visits are:

- to learn more about education systems in the Middle East;
- to explain the Australian system to government, industry and academic representatives in countries visited;
- to offer enrolment in 1990 and courses for suitably qualified students who would like to study in Australia;
- to establish relationships with schools, colleges and universities in the Middle East.

Mr Hobbs said that the fact that his group this time consists of six representatives, including four (4) universities, demonstrates the growing interest by Australians in the Middle East region. It also reflects a genuine desire to open Australian study opportunities for people of the region. Institutions participating in May offer courses in all areas of study. Their quality is in all cases guaranteed and accredited by Australian Government and relevant professional bodies. Mr Hobbs said that Australia's lower costs (for both study and living) & safe, friendly and pleasant environment have already attracted large numbers of overseas students to Australian institutions.

The institutions present are:

BOND UNIVERSITY

Australia's first private university, specialising in Business, Law, Computing, Humanities and Science, and located on Queensland's Gold Coast.

CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY

A provincial university, located on three campuses in New South Wales (Wagga Wagga, Albury and Bathurst), specialising in Agriculture, Business, Health Sciences, Science, Computing and Creative Arts.

WOLLONGONG UNIVERSITY

A leading Australian university, located just south of Sydney, specialising in Science, Technology, all branches of Engineering, Computing and Biotechnology. Its reputation in these and other fields — including Business, Humanities and Creative Arts — has led to the enrolment of many overseas students.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF CENTRAL QUEENSLAND

Located in Rockhampton, UCCQ offers a broad range of courses in six different faculties — Business, Engineering, Applied Science, Nursing, Education, and Humanities and Social Sciences. Because it is a relatively small institution situated in a smaller city, students are assured of personal attention from staff, and ready access to equipment and facilities.

HOLMES BUSINESS COLLEGE

Australia's leading private business college, located in Melbourne, Australia's second largest city, and offering programmes in Business, Computing, Travel and Tourism and Marketing.

NEW SOUTH WALES STATE HIGH SCHOOLS

A network of several hundred schools run by the New South Wales Government. Courses prepare students for matriculation and entry into all Australian universities and overseas counterparts within high quality environments.

Mr Hobbs said that he and his colleagues hope to meet large numbers of parents and students for this purpose have arranged free public seminars to be held at Meridien Hotel on 14 May '90 at 6.30 pm. Enrolments can still be made for courses in 1990 due to the multiple dates of course commencements in all the institutions represented. Starting dates in 1990 include July and September, and in 1991, January, February, May, July and September.

Entry to Australian institutions requires qualifications very comparable with those applying in the USA and Britain.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

THERE is no education like adversity. — Benjamin Disraeli, English statesman (1804-1881).

Lithuanians anxious
Uncertainty over
Moscow's move

VILNIUS, Soviet Union, (Reuters): A scene in a satirical puppet show in Vilnius shows Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev exploding with anger because the Lithuanian puppets are being so quiet.

"Who is this silence directed against?" he bellows, furiously waving his paper-mache arms. Only after he leaves the room do they break their silence with the Lithuanian national anthem.

Two months after declaring independence from Moscow, most Lithuanians, like the puppets in the show, are quietly determined to be free, despite a three-week-old economic blockade by the Kremlin imposed in retaliation and little support from abroad.

Anxiety
But anxiety is growing, fuelled by the problems of an inexperienced government, a restless minority population, the spectres of rising unemployment and falling supplies, and the uncertainty about what Moscow will do next.

"When the blockade was first imposed, people were relieved," said a Vilnius journalist Linas Modelis. "They thought, this is Moscow's response and we can live with it."

"Now time has passed and they are nervous again, worried that this was not Moscow's final word."

Life in Lithuania goes on much as before, if at a slower pace because of petrol shortages. With private cars limited to 30 litres (six-and-a-half gallons) of petrol a month, many people are walking to work and cancelling weekend trips to the country, and buses are crowded.

Flour, sugar, salt and cereals are rationed, but the amounts allowed are generous and the system inflicts no particular hardship, unlike other parts of the Soviet Union where meat and sugar are widely rationed.

A flea market on the outskirts of Vilnius has suddenly boomed with the business of blockade-runners, who offer everything from petrol and bicycles brought in from neighbouring Byelorussia to glassware from Poland.

But if the blockade has caused few difficulties so far, both officials and ordinary residents interviewed on the streets of Vilnius and the republic's second city Kaunas are worried about the future.

Threat
The threat of Soviet military force has not vanished. Troops have already been used to occupy key public buildings so that Moscow prosecutors and communists loyal to the Kremlin can work there.

On Tuesday the deputy commander of Vilnius garrison said he thought Lithuania should be ruled directly from Moscow and warned the army could be forced to intervene in the republic's political life if tensions escalated.

Last week Deputy Prime Minister Algirdas Brazauskas, the popular former president of the republic, warned that supplies of oil would run out by May 20 and petrol by the end of the month, and said Lithuania must compromise with the Kremlin.

Some Lithuanians are concerned about the inexperienced government of President Vytautas Landsbergis and the republic's parliament, which with so many pro-independence activists discusses issues endlessly before taking decisions.

"I think Landsbergis looks tired. His people do not have much experience," said Janina Januziute, an economist and resident of Kaunas, which was the capital of Lithuania during its years of independence from 1918 to 1940.

"Granted, the Parliament has been occupied with the blockade. But it has not considered an economic programme for the republic," she said.

Members of Lithuania's minority communities — mostly Russians and Poles — which comprise 20 per cent of the republic's population, say the parliament has done little to assuage their concerns that they will lose their jobs or become second-class citizens in the new Lithuania.

"I support Lithuanian sovereignty, but not if it means I am constantly insulted," said Alexander Clurkin, one of several Russian lorry drivers who blocked traffic for hours recently in a protest against the Parliament's independence declaration.

Unemployment
Unemployment caused by the blockade, which in the first week was just 3,000 workers in a population of 3.6 million, was up to 17,000 by Monday and is expected to soar when the oil and petrol run out, forcing more factories to close.

Many Lithuanians are angry over what they see as a sellout of the republic by the West. Without at least Western economic assistance, they say, they are doomed to remain under Soviet control.

"President Bush should be shot," declared Olga Pocius, a resident of Kaunas who was jailed for four years in the 1950s for singing Lithuanian patriotic songs. "Ronald Reagan would have bailed us out."

How will the Lithuanian dilemma end? In the puppet show, which was co-authored by Landsbergis' 28-year-old son, a glimpse of the future shows Landsbergis, Brazauskas, and the other leaders being tortured to death in KGB headquarters.

But an angel takes them all to heaven, while the ghost of former Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev rises from the dead to drag Gorbachev down to hell.

Lithuanians are not overly optimistic. But most of them believe that the unrest elsewhere in the Soviet Union, the rejection of communism in many parts of the world, and time are all on their side.

"Every small town in Siberia wants to be like us. They don't want Moscow telling them what to do," said Tomas Meieris, a Kaunas organiser for a new independent workers' union.

He said the union would seek support from oil workers in Siberia and Azerbaijan, urging them to strike if Moscow did not lift the blockade against Lithuania.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1509 — French defeat Venetians at Agnadello and become masters of north Italy; Spanish troops seize Oran from Moors.

1610 — Francois Ravallac, a fanatic, assassinates France's King Henry IV who is succeeded by Louis XIII, age 9, with Maria de Medici, the queen mother, as regent.

1702 — Sweden's King Charles XII takes Warsaw.

1791 — British under Lord Cornwallis overthrow Sultan Tipu of Mysore at Seringapatam in India.

1897 — Britain, by treaty with Ethiopia, abandons certain claims in Somaliland but Emperor Menelek refuses to surrender claims to land near the Nile.

1921 — Fascists gain in Italian elections.

1948 — British mandate in Palestine ends, and an independent state of Israel is formed with Chaim Weizman as president and David Ben-Gurion as premier; Arab Legion of Transjordan invades Palestine and enters Jerusalem.

1964 — Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev opens Aswan Dam in Egypt.

1972 — Okinawa reverts to Japan after 27 years under US jurisdiction.

1975 — United States announces that marines have recaptured by force the US merchant ship Mayaguez which had been seized by Cambodians, and that US planes destroyed three Cambodian naval vessels.

1977 — Soviet newspaper Pravda warns West that any aid to China eventually will be used to start world conflict.

1987 — Armed troops storm Fiji Parliament, declaring military government after kidnapping prime minister and his cabinet in South Pacific's first coup.

Iraqi warplanes attack and set ablaze five ship at oil terminal that belongs to Iran.

Analysts call for economic independence from the West.

Negotiators wary despite relaxed tensions

Arms accords slated for May 30

GENEVA, (UPI): US and Soviet negotiators, wary despite the relaxed tensions between the two superpowers, have produced far-reaching arms control agreements for the May 30 summit in Washington, sources say.

Most importantly, top delegates on both sides stressed, procedures are set out in the proposed agreements for mutual inspection of top-secret installations to verify the accords.

Those and other verification and monitoring measures will in turn provide the basis for yet more radical arms reductions in the future.

"Almost every important strategic military installation of the other side," will be examined by inspectors, said US Start negotiator Richard Burr.

President Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev will, for the time being, sign a major accord on restricting stockpiles of lethal nerve gas and other chemical weapons, the sources said.

They also will have in hand a protocol on verification of limits on underground nuclear testing, they said.

And while a Start treaty is not ready, the two leaders were to make the crucial political decisions needed to complete the immensely complex agreement on deep reductions in long-range strategic nuclear weapons.

Achievements
The achievements of years of painstaking work by different negotiating teams in Geneva first went to Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze for final polishing and endorsement.

Baker and Shevardnadze were to hold their final pre-summit talks beginning Wednesday in the Soviet Union.

A summary of the major arms control achievements in Geneva:

— Start: Negotiations began in 1985 and gathered momentum after agreement in December 1987 at the parallel intermediate nuclear forces talks on eliminating ground-launched medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe.

Bush and Gorbachev, at their Malta summit late last year, asked that a treaty be ready for this spring on far more complex strategic nuclear missiles and bombers, weapons each side can use to strike at the other from its own territory.

That proved an impossible task although negotiators were to meet at least 12 to 14 hours a day right up to the May 30 summit. A basic draft text of more than 1,000 pages still contained hundreds of brackets with opposing proposals.

There was fundamental agreement to cut strategic nuclear warheads by about 50 per cent on each side to 6,000 each, with sub-limits on warheads on different types of missiles and bombs.

But negotiators were unable to resolve the all but insoluble problem of telling the difference between nuclear and conventional cruise missiles — the low-flying, jet-powered subsonic rockets launched from the sea and from the air.

"A decision at the highest political level was needed on setting out numerical limits for nuclear cruise missiles, with each side basically pledging to remain within those limits," one involved diplomat said.

Bush and Gorbachev, the sources said, were expected to issue general political declarations on the cruise missiles, the sea-launched version being a US strategic mainstay.

Another declaration could involve pledges to cease "telemetry encryption," or the coding of data from missile test flights.

And diplomats said there may be a statement setting out guidelines for limits on heavy mobile

land missiles of a Start treaty without such big decisions," said one official.

Negotiating teams would meet right up to the summit and immediately afterwards with the target of completing a treaty by year's end.

Chemical weapons: Different negotiating teams in Geneva on April 28 reached agreement on limiting each side to 5,000 tons of toxic gas and similar arms.

The United States would thus eliminate about 20,000 tons of stockpiled weapons while the Soviet Union would have to destroy 45,000 tons — with American help because it lacks the required safe facilities.

Both sides then would cut to nearly zero when there is an international convention prohibiting the weapons and get rid of the rest when all countries possessing or able to produce them have adhered to that treaty.

Expectations modest for summit

WASHINGTON, (AP): The timing of President George Bush's moves on the chemical weapons front are linked to slow progress on other arms control accords and the proximity of the May 30-June 3 superpower summit.

The president is aiming for the agreement with Moscow — provided he gets it on his terms — to sharply reduce US and Soviet stockpiles of poison gas. According to recent reports, Bush is willing to halt production of US chemical weapons.

Bush wants to do some serious business with Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev during the summit. Otherwise the two leaders could be accused of unproductive posturing.

Months ago, when the summit was scheduled, it looked like an agreement could be ready to reduce long-range nuclear missiles, bombers and submarines.

Optimists
Only world optimists expected a finished treaty for Bush and Gorbachev to sign. The issues are complex, and any verification system requires an enormous amount of work and trust.

But considering the Soviet leader's determination to cut nuclear arms and Bush's positive response after an initial delay, the plan was to celebrate the summit with a strategic arms agreement-in-principle on key issues.

Bush and Gorbachev would initial the framework accord, and up to 50 per cent of the most dangerous weapons in the world would be consigned to the scrap heap after US and Soviet negotiators in Geneva worked out the details.

But with Gorbachev due here in less than three weeks, the two sides are still far apart.

For example, they have agreed tentatively to eliminate land-based ballistic missiles with multiple warheads. But the Soviets want to extend the ban to such missiles carried by submarines. That is an area of US strength, and the administration is balking.

The Soviets also want to make deeper cuts in air-launched cruise missiles than the United States is willing to accept. The reason is the Pentagon plans a new missile above the cutoff range proposed by Moscow.

Negotiations between the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the Warsaw Pact have also slowed in Vienna on another treaty to reduce troops, tanks and other non-nuclear arms in Europe.

The plan was to have the heads of 35 countries, including Bush and Gorbachev, sign the treaty at a European Summit before the end of the year. There is still some hope of reaching that goal.

But Bush's prediction last June that the treaty would be ready by now

is falling flat, so he and Gorbachev are unable to announce that the major arms control accord is at the wrap-up stage.

The picture could change when Secretary of State James Baker holds in Moscow next week with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A Shevardnadze. But they failed to make serious headway only last week in Bonn.

Thus, a chemical weapons accord is the most promising candidate for the Bush-Gorbachev summit.

Bush wants the Soviets to agree that the two sides should retain small stockpiles of chemical weapons until all 40 nations sign and implement a global ban.

The Soviets have resisted until now.

The Soviet argument is that waiting for all 40 nations to carry out the treaty before scrapping the last US and Soviet chemical weapons would indefinitely postpone ridding the world of poison gas.

Some two dozen nations are believed either to possess or be capable of manufacturing poison gas.

Still, reports this week that Bush is willing to halt production of US chemical weapons probably were made in the belief that enough is settled for Bush and Gorbachev to assure the people of the world that on one dangerous arena there may be cause for hope.

Letters to the editor

Teachers' plight

SIR: Recently an article appeared in the Arab Times — it was a request from parents — hoping that well-qualified and experienced staff teach their children in the high school sections of the Indian schools. They were upset about the constant fluctuations experienced at the moment. One can understand and appreciate the parents' anxiety — knowing the importance of good marks, get into a first rate college.

However, has anyone ever asked oneself why there is a constant change of staff? Mainly because — though teaching is one of the noblest professions, it is also the worst paid one — when the opportunity comes teachers try for more lucrative employment to make ends meet. This is the root cause of excess tuitions — no individual attention is given to them but again — how does one keep "the wolf from the door" or keep up with the Joneses with only an inadequate income to fall back on? These are just the observations of an unbiased observer on visa No. 22.

C. Menezes, Safat.

Therapy standard

SIR: I am concerned about the standard of physical therapy in Kuwait. Recently a professor, at the Kuwait University, made statements critical of physical therapy at Sulabikhat Hospital and Sabah General Hospital. These comments were made to an entire class of physical therapy students at the university, and to university lecturers.

What confidence can people have when they go to these hospitals for treatment? I would like to know what steps the medical directors of these hospitals are taking to correct this unfortunate situation!

Worried expat,
(Name & address supplied).

New board

SIR: I am writing this in support of the "concerned parent" who wrote about the need for a new board of trustees for the Indian School. I believe the constitution has been amended in such a way that an individual can continue to be an office-bearer as long as he wants just by changing titles once in two years. In fact, we know of some individuals who have been monopolising policies for more than two years. This can lead to proprietary feelings, vested interests and arrogance.

Some manipulative members control affairs to such an extent that the director and the principals have no real say even in small matters. Teachers and administrators who do not please these people are harassed and mediocre people who toe the line are supported and encouraged, according to rules created for the occasion.

When a small coterie of people have full control with no accountability, they soon get the feeling that they own the school. To prevent this inevitable result, I suggest that there has to be a complete overhauling of the board and a limit set to the tenure of each member.

Another concerned parent",
(Name & address supplied).

Nuclear power

SIR: The letter on nuclear power appearing in Arab Times (May 8) has been read with interest. I had no other option but to set the records straight.

1. Pakistan has a reason to celebrate? West excessive hostility?

The accord signed with France to purchase 900 megawatts nuclear power plant was on February 21, 1990. The origin of this interest dates back to March 20, 1976 when France and Pakistan signed an accord enabling Pakistan to acquire nuclear reprocessing plant. The agreement was signed by the government of Pakistan and the French government of Giscard d'Estaing. It was duly confirmed by the International Atomic Energy Commission. Later on there were serious questions on safeguards raised by the super powers and France reneged on the deal.

2. 900MW for 1 million people? 100 reactors per 100 million people?

The other questions raised by the author are that a 900MW nuclear power plant can only provide elec-



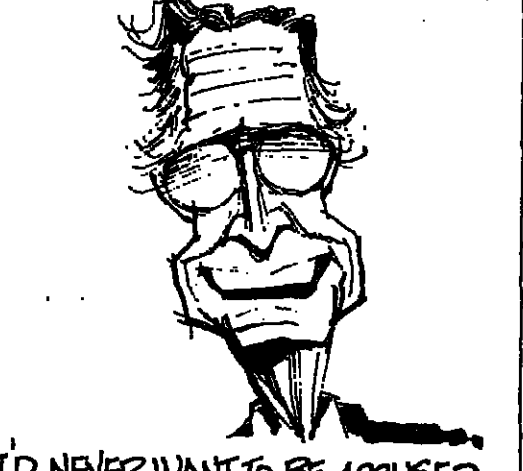
"I WILL HAVE NOTHING TO SAY ABOUT MY ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN IRAN-CONTRA..."



UNTIL AFTER THE NORTH TRIAL...



AND THEN UNTIL AFTER THE SECOND AND POINDEXTER TRIALS...



IF I NEVER WANT TO BE ACCUSED OF OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE!

Qatar

Yugoslavia

Tudjman ousts Croatian reds

ZAGREB: Yugoslavia, (Reuters): Franjo Tudjman, whose rightist party has ousted the ruling communists in the Yugoslav republic of Croatia, believed as a teenager that communism could create "a paradise on Earth."

In the 50 years since then, the retired army general, historian and former politician has travelled the road from Marxism to anti-communism to lead the Croatian Democratic Union to power in elections in Yugoslavia's second biggest republic.

"I was attracted at an early age to Marxist ideology," Tudjman, 68, told Reuters in an interview this week in Zagreb, Croatia's capital. "I believed communism could create a paradise on Earth and provide social justice for the Croatian people."

But Tudjman, now a grey-haired, bespectacled and an impeccable dresser, fought with the communist partisans led by Josip Broz Tito against the Nazi invaders during World War II.

Member
As a Communist Party member he rose to the rank of general after the war and worked for the Defence Ministry and the army's general staff in Belgrade.

But in the 1950s he became disillusioned with communist rule installed by Tito in 1945.

"I had realised by that time that the Marxist Utopia would not succeed and that the one-party system would sooner or later have to yield to a multi-party democracy," Tudjman said.

He quit the army in 1961 to write history books and moved back to Zagreb where he completed a doctorate in history and became the head of a history institute.

But in 1967, he was stripped of all his posts and expelled from the Communist Party for membership of a mass movement called Maspek "which Tito accused of Croatian nationalism."

"My family and I went through hell at that time. I was left without a job at the age of 45, with no income," he said.

Tudjman was jailed from 1972 to 1974 on counter-revolutionary charges and was sentenced to three years in jail in 1981 for spreading "hostile propaganda."

He was released before serving that term and says only Tito's intervention saved him from more punishment.

He retired to write history books and helped set up the Croatian Democratic Union in June 1989.

Autonomy
The party wants Yugoslavia's six republics and two provinces to become a looser alliance giving each region more autonomy. Tudjman has threatened to pull Croatia out of Yugoslavia but hopes it can live together with communists in other republics.

"Many illusion and ideological masks have fallen. The cards are on the table, so let's sit down and work out the conditions for living together," he said.

"By our programme, goals and membership, we are a centrist Croatian party. We guarantee full civil and national rights to Croats, Serbs and others alike," Tudjman said, denying press charges that his party is nationalist or even fascist.

Tudjman was born on May 14, 1922, in the region of Hrvatsko Zagorje, north of Zagreb — the area where Tito was born.

He keeps fit by playing tennis and looks about 10 years younger than he is. He has no other hobbies, not even hunting which was a status symbol among communist leaders.

"Perhaps this is one of the reasons why I couldn't succeed in the communist hierarchy," he said cracking a rare smile.

"I couldn't kill even a rabbit, let alone a deer. Tudjman lives in a state-owned house in the city of Zagreb with his wife Ankica and their two sons, daughter Niveska and two sons.

His son Miroslav, 44, is a professor at Zagreb University and the younger Stjepan is deputy editor of the Croatian Democratic Union's newspaper Glasnik.

US-Korea ties survive test

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): The firebombing of an American cultural centre in Seoul is not a reflection of troubled relations between the United States and South Korea, US officials say, even though tensions exist over other issues.

"There is a very small fringe element that is virulently anti-American... but the perception that everybody is throwing firebombs at US agencies is a wrong perception," one State Department official said in an interview.

"The fact is that the overwhelming majority of the population in South Korea has a favourable attitude to US-Korea relations."

This official, who asked not to be identified, acknowledged there is friction between Washington and Seoul, especially over US attempts to open South Korean markets to American exports.

But the official said this was probably not the impetus behind violent demonstrations in Seoul on Wednesday.

The State Department blandly noted the attack on the US Information Service building in the South Korean capital describing how students torched the place with firebombs and discussing the extent of smoke and water damage.

Department spokesman Richard Boucher suggested the US building merely happened to be on the way to the protesters' final destination, City Hall Plaza, where they demonstrated against President Roh Tae-woo.

South Korean police said 92,000 people took to the streets around the country, and vowed on Thursday to crack down on such demonstrations.

Economist Eui-Gak Hwang, a scholar at the Washington-based Brookings Institution who was in South Korea earlier this week, agreed with the official US view that most South Koreans value good relations with the United States and only about 10 per cent of college students were part of the demonstrations.

"Most people worry about those radical students," Hwang said. "I think the number of those students is decreasing... and I think they will fade away over time."

Hwang also said, however, that some South Koreans were bothered by the announcement in April that about 7,000 US troops will be withdrawn from positions along the demilitarised zone separating North and South Korea.

What rankles, Hwang said, is the impression that Seoul was not consulted before the troop withdrawals were announced.

QUOTE ME

"It remains the self-evident duty on all democratic forces in a united Germany, to fight uncompromisingly against those who openly or covertly propagate anti-Semitic prejudices or insult the Jewish religion and religiousness." Kohl to a meeting of the World Jewish Congress.

"His time isn't organised. During a standard day, there is time set aside for medical evaluation, time for rest and time for meeting with visitors. A large number of visitors have expressed the desire to see Mr. Reed and he has expressed the desire to have a large number of visitors. — Doctor of ex-hostage, Frank Reed on creation of a schedule for Reed to meet visitors.

"We cannot live and sleep tranquilly while thousands of our brothers and sisters have close to you, lack that which is most indispensable to lead a dignified human life." — Pope to slum-dwellers in Mexico.

Qatar

Motorist opens fire at rioting Arab youths

Curfew in Gaza after eruption of clashes

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 13. (Agencies): An Israeli motorist in the occupied West Bank opened fire on a group of stone-throwing Arab youths today and critically wounded a 14-year-old, witnesses said.

The shooting occurred near the Jewish settlement of Elkana where nationalistic Israelis were planning to celebrate the town's 13th birthday today. The ceremony will be attended by President Chaim Herzog and Chief of Staff Dan Shomron.

Witnesses said an Israeli-owned car was stoned while passing. A Herzog aide said the president's participation in the Elkana ceremony should not be interpreted as giving legitimacy to settlement in the territories.

Israeli occupation forces imposed a curfew on Gaza Strip at dawn today after eruption of clashes last night with Palestinian protesters.

A curfew in Beit Hanun, near Gaza is still effective for the fourth day running. The Zionist forces are using new types of rubber bullets in various parts of the West Bank and Gaza during recent clashes with Palestinians, sources from the occupied lands said today.

A Palestinian youth from the Buraj refugee camp was shot by this kind of bullet, which has no rubber case around it.

On the other hand, Radio Israel said that Soviet settlers held a rally in the city of Hebron on Friday to commemorate the death of six Israelis killed during an attack carried out by Palestinian resistance men ten years ago.

The settlers called on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to heed their warning that the situation is critical and called for the appointment of a new defence minister who can crush the intifada.

Reports today from Hebron city said that Zionist troops are still demolishing houses claiming they are a source of danger and threat to Soviet Jewish settlers.

through the centre of Kalkiya, an Arab town in the West Bank some 10 km (six miles) from Elkana.

The motorist got out of the car and opened fire, shooting Samih Eid Abu Sheikh twice in the head, the witnesses said. Military sources confirmed Sheikh was wounded but said police were investigating the circumstances.

About 100 activists of the Peace Now protest movement planned to demonstrate at Elkana today against what they called official sanction of disputed settlement by the president and chief of staff.

Right-wing govt will increase repression

Intifada will survive

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 13. (Reuters): Palestinians in the occupied territories, convinced an expected right-wing Israeli government will increase repression, say they are confident their revolt can survive a new onslaught.

"We are ready for the new, and perhaps the most dangerous phase in the history of the intifada (uprising), which I believe would not end the revolt," said Professor Sari Nusseibeh, a mainstream Palestinian nationalist leader.

Israeli caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is trying to put together a coalition with far-right and religious parties sworn to put down the 29-month-long Palestinian revolt.

Aides said they were not sure if Shamir would succeed in forming a cabinet this week or require a 21-day extension of his presidential mandate, but they ruled out another national unity government with the dovish Labour Party.

Palestinians say unlike the former coalition between Labour and Shamir's hardline Likud Party, a right-wing government would be less sensitive to international pressure and would spare no method to crush the uprising.

Shamir's 15-month-old coalition with Labour collapsed in March when he refused to endorse US proposals to hold the first Palestinian-Israeli peace talks in Cairo. Palestinians expect a rightist Shamir cabinet would freeze peace efforts.

"The new government will send us back to square one from a political standpoint," said Ghassan Al-Khatib, a communist academic.

A senior Israeli defence official said despite fatigue and internal divisions, the motivation of Palestinians in the occupied territories to continue the intifada remains unbroken.

Many Palestinians say they expect the worst of a right-wing government — more bloodshed, expulsions, house demolitions and economic strangulation for the already battered 1.75 million residents of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Intellectuals and activists say the uprising has gained new momentum in the last month, with almost daily widespread clashes as Palestinians try to seize the initiative again and vent their frustration at the fading prospect for peace talks.

In its latest regular leaflet, the PLO-backed unified leadership of the uprising had called for "more painful strikes against the enemy's army and settlers with stones and firebombs" to confront a right-wing government.

"Unfortunately we are going to face more loss of life and other losses in the near future," said Nusseibeh who believes that he and other occupied east Jerusalem activists could be expelled after the new government is formed.

Israeli soldiers and civilians have killed at least 648 Palestinians and wounded tens of thousands since the outbreak of the uprising in December 1987.

Former Israeli defence minister Ariel Sharon, a senior Likud figure, has repeatedly called for the expulsion of 50 leading Palestinian nationalists and for the closure of PLO-backed Arab newspapers, research organisations and trade unions.

\$2 billion for Jew emigrants

KUWAIT, May 13. (Kuna): The Israeli cabinet today discussed a proposal to increase by \$2 billion funds allocated for newly arriving emigrants Israeli radio said.

The radio, monitored here, reported that Israeli Minister of Justice Dan Meridor will ask the cabinet to approve the additional sums to the state budget to absorb 250,000 Soviet Jews emigration to Israel this year.

Meridor added that the session will also discuss proposals made by the Ministry of Finance and Housing asking for increase in ministry's budget to construct additional settlements.

He said that the housing minister will seek \$500 million to construct 70,000 housing units this year.

Meanwhile, the Jewish agency had collected more than \$600 million to be used for accommodating Soviet Jews.

Officials of the Jewish agency have assumed full responsibility for overseeing affairs of Soviet emigrants to Israel at a key transit station in the Hungarian capital, Budapest.

The number of Soviet immigrants to Israel during the first four months of this year reached 30,000, the radio acknowledged.

The Jewish agency expected the number to gradually increase every month.

The Finance Ministry estimates that 150,000 Soviet Jews will enter the country this year, Israeli radio said.



Grave desecration

Vandals daubed 250 Jewish graves above with anti-Israeli graffiti in the northern city of Haifa overnight, apparently inspired by the desecration of a Jewish cemetery in France, Israeli police chief said on Sunday.

Tombstones in two graveyards were spraypainted black with slogans in Hebrew declaring "The Arabs will kill the Jews" and signed with names of Arab villages in Israel.

Unknown assailants desecrated Jewish graves with anti-Semitic slogans and dug up and mutilated a corpse in the southern French town of Carpentras last week, stirring outrage in France.

Shamir may ask for time

Coalition talks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 13. (UPI): The right-wing Likud Party worked today to conclude coalition negotiations, but party sources said Likud leader acting Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir may ask for more time to form Israel's next government.

Israeli daily newspapers reported today that high-ranking Likud sources expected Shamir to ask President Chaim Herzog for an additional 21 days to form a new government. Shamir's first 21-day mandate ends on Thursday.

On Sunday Likud representatives meet with leaders of right-wing and religious parties to conclude coalition agreements that will give Shamir's party a majority in the Parliament.

However, the Likud Party wants to postpone a parliamentary vote on the new government until it secures the support of ultra-orthodox religious party Agudat Israel, the leftist Al Hamishmar reported.

Christian rivals resume fighting

BEIRUT, May 13. (Reuters): Lebanon's Christian enclave shook to the sound of artillery duels today when rival forces resumed a three-month-old war for leadership of their community.

Troops of General Michel Aoun traded artillery and rocket fire in east Beirut and across a mountainous ridge with Lebanese Forces militiamen, sending thousands of civilians back to underground bunkers.

Shells crashed in residential areas of the Christian half of the capital and surrounding villages as well as military positions and around sea ports in Beirut and Jounieh, 20 km (12 miles) to the north of the city.

Initial reports said five people were wounded.

The bombardments, which shattered a morning lull, were of a less intensity to the violence of recent days, residents of east Beirut reached by telephone said.

Yesterday, the rivals, using phosphorus shells and rockets, hammered each other as well as residential areas, setting apartment blocks ablaze and causing widespread damage in east Beirut and nearby towns and villages.

Ten people were killed and 44 wounded.

Security sources said Aoun's soldiers kept crossing points to LF-held areas in the Christian enclave closed for the fifth consecutive day.

A Western diplomat said the recent artillery duels were "pointless, both politically and militarily, as no side was attempting to advance on the ground."

"Neither can expect to win like this. Fighting this way would only lead to more death and destruction," he said.

The battle for the control of Lebanon's Christian enclave erupted on Jan 31 after Aoun ordered the 10,000-strong LF to disarm. More than 1,650 people have been killed and 3,100 wounded since.

Potential force in Algeria

Thousands march for democracy

ALGIERS, May 13. (Reuters): Tens of thousands of Algerians who joined a pro-democracy march in the capital last Thursday showed the limits of Muslim fundamentalism in Algeria but they have yet to coalesce into an effective political force.

A loose coalition of moderate and leftist parties organised the nation-wide march, mobilising large numbers of Algerians from all walks of life.

Political analysts said the impressive showing could foreshadow the emergence of what Algeria's fledgling multi-party democracy now lacks — a credible liberal successor to the widely discredited ruling party, the National Liberation Front.

A month ahead of the first free elections, the march showed that vast numbers of Algerians do not accept the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) as the only alternative to the FLN after 27 years of one-party rule.

But the pro-democracy forces still needed to define common objectives and project a compelling vision of Algeria's future, the analysts said.

"The alternative to the FIS has not yet coalesced. What the pro-democracy forces need to do is to organise themselves into a party and give Algerians an alternative to both the FLN and the FIS," said

one senior Western diplomat. "It's one thing to turn people out on the streets, and another to organise a coherent political force," he said.

By most counts the four organising parties succeeded in surpassing the 50,000 to 60,000 FIS supporters that marched on the presidential palace last month.

The pro-democracy march impressed observers not only by its numbers — more than 100,000 by most independent accounts — but by the breadth of support.

While the FIS march was dominated by the crisis-hit young urban poor, the pro-democracy marchers appeared more representative of Algerian society — grouping middle-class professionals, non-Arab Berbers and women alarmed by the rise of fundamentalism as well as unemployed youth.

"The silent majority has spoken" proclaimed state media that loudly supported the event.

But the non-fundamentalist opposition remains deeply divided and some major parties — such as the Socialist Forces Front of revolutionary war hero Hocine Ait Ahmed — refused to take part. The FFS has its own march set for May 31.



An armed Israeli border policeman looks into the remains of a smoldering car on Saturday that was set alight outside the Lion's Gate of Jerusalem's Old City. Jerusalem has been experiencing an increase in car torchings in the past several months. (Reuters wirephoto)

MIDEAST BRIEFS

10,000 Chad refugees in Sudan: Sudan says some 10,000 refugees have entered the country following renewed fighting between Chadian troops and opposition forces. The Sudanese News Agency (Suna) reported on Sunday.

Suna, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, quoted Sudan's commissioner for refugees, Brigadier Abdulhamid Sir Alkhatim, as saying the refugees were being housed in the Kotom area of western Sudan's Darfur region.

The Darfur governor had asked for emergency food and medical aid, Suna said. (Reuters)

Sudan calls on Chad: Sudan has asked Chad to free a group of Sudanese and Libyan traders it said Chadian troops abducted in the western Sudan, the Sudanese News Agency (Suna) reported on Sunday.

Suna quoted a Foreign Ministry statement as saying the traders were "kidnapped in an act of aggression against Sudanese territory by Chadian government troops." (Reuters)

US tanks arrive in Cairo: The second batch of the 700 US-made M-60 tanks arrives in Cairo Monday through the Alexandria port, Egyptian military sources told Kuna Sunday.

The sources said that the batch groups 156 tanks, bringing up the total received to 310.

Egypt had received 154 M-60 tanks last April 21. The US agreed to give the tanks to Egypt stationed in Europe, instead of bringing them back home, following the agreement concluded with the Soviet Union to cut back its conventional forces in Western Europe, where those tanks were stationed. (Kuna)

Boycott peace march: The fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood movement, the largest bloc in Parliament, announced Sunday that it has decided not to participate in a peace march to the Jordan-Israel ceasefire line.

The march, scheduled for Monday, was organised by Arab unionists and professional associations. It aims mainly at calling for a peace settlement with Israel and the establishment of a Palestinian state. (AP)

Morphine, opium haul: Revolutionary guards have seized a big haul of morphine and opium in a series of raids in western Iran, Tehran radio said on Sunday.

The radio said the hauls in the province of west Azerbaijan bordering Turkey netted 550 kg (1,200 pounds) of morphine and 200 kg (440 pounds) of opium.

Nine people had been arrested and confessed to smuggling 1.3 tonnes of morphine, the radio monitored in Nicaragua said.

Iran, which admits to having one million drug addicts, said on Saturday it had launched a new nationwide drive to hunt down smugglers and addicts. (Reuters)

Bad liquor kills 11: Liquor contaminated with methanol killed 11 people in the western Algerian city of Sidi-Bel-Abbes, the Algerian news agency APS reported on Sunday. Another 44 people were in critical condition. (Reuters)

Algeria reassures Tunisia: A senior Algerian official, seeking to allay Tunisian fears over the strength of Islamic fundamentalists in his country, said on Sunday there was a "red line" beyond which they could not cross.

"There is a red line beyond which it is not democratically permitted to go," Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of Algeria's ruling National Liberation Front (FLN), told a news conference. (Reuters)

Tunisian Islamists arrested: Tunisian police arrested dozens of Muslim fundamentalists on Saturday and Sunday after clashes overnight in the north Tunis suburbs of Ibn Khaldoun, sources close to the Islamic movement said.

Witnesses said the clashes broke out when the fundamentalists were leaving a mosque where an Islamist teacher had been lecturing. The fundamentalists set fire to a police vehicle and a policeman was injured, they said. (Reuters)

Mubarak in Pyongyang: Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak arrived Sunday in Pyongyang, where he was welcomed by North Korean President Kim Il Sung and hundreds of thousands of citizens, official North Korean media reported.

Kim warmly hugged Mubarak at the airport, and thousands of North Koreans cheered and waved miniature flags and bunches of flowers, said the Korean Central News Agency, monitored in Tokyo.

After ceremonies that included a 21-gun salute, Mubarak drove into the city, and hundreds of thousands of people lined the route, it added. (UPI)

2 Aids cases reported in Amman: The Health Ministry announced Sunday that it has recently discovered two new Aids cases among foreign students at Jordan University.

A ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they were a student from oil-rich Oman who is undergoing medical treatment, and another from China, who was deported to his country. (AP)



O'Connor criticises Israel

Cardinal John O'Connor has condemned as obscene a Jewish settlement in the Christian quarters of occupied Jerusalem and said the Israeli government acted reprehensibly by helping to fund the move.

In his weekly column in a newspaper published by the New York Archdiocese, O'Connor said that some Catholics perceived the settlement as "a signal of a conspiracy to grab lands all over Israel currently occupied by Christians."

American Jewish leaders denounced O'Connor's remarks as "shocking and provocative," and said they could cause tensions between Christian and Jewish communities both in the United States and Israel.

"What has happened in occupied Jerusalem is obscene in my judgement, the Israeli government has acted reprehensibly," wrote O'Connor, the archbishop of New York.

He cited allegations that the Israelis are "speeding up... a design to make it virtually impossible for Christians to function anywhere in the land."

The settlement in a hospice owned by the Greek Orthodox Church was the first in the Christian quarter of occupied Jerusalem's walled Old City since Israel captured the area along with the rest of occupied east Jerusalem in the 1967 Middle East war. (Reuters wirephoto)

Turkey-Israel accord

AMMAN, May 13. (Kuna): Turkish ambassador to Jordan today confirmed reports that his country had signed an agreement with Zionist entity to provide Israel with water.

In a statement to Jordanian "Sawt Al Shaab" daily, the Turkish ambassador pointed out that the agreement was not formal between the two governments but between a private Turkish company and Israel.



Arafat meets Hermansson

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat met in Tunis last night with Icelandic Premier Steingrimur Hermannsson (right) who affirmed to Arafat his country's support for the Palestinian right of self-determination.

The Palestinian news agency (Wafa) said that the Arafat-Hermannsson meeting, which is the first for the two leaders since the latest developments on the Palestinian question, particularly the intifada issue and the Israeli repression measures against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

It added that the Icelandic top official asserted to Arafat Iceland's support for the Palestinian struggle against the occupation and briefed him on the report by his country's Parliament that denounced the Israeli crimes against innocent Palestinian civilians. (Kuna)

Lahd for package swap of hostages

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon, May 13. (AP): The commander of Israel's proxy force in south Lebanon said today he is ready to swap detainees his militia holds for 16 Western hostages, three Israeli servicemen and several of his men held by Shiite Muslim factions.

"I'm not only prepared to facilitate such a package deal, but I also hope it could happen," said Gen. Antoine Lahd, commander of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army.

"A comprehensive package deal is possible, involving American and Western hostages, our (SLA) men held by different groups and Israeli servicemen captured in Lebanon," Lahd, 61, said in an interview with the Associated Press.

Lahd's 10,000 Lebanese army officer, commands a 3,000-strong militia. Backed by some 1,000 Israeli troops, the SLA patrols a border enclave in south Lebanon.

Asked if a swap would include Sheikh Obeid, who is held in Israel, Lahd said: "I cannot specify Obeid or others. But judging from my dealings with Israel, I know that if their people were released they will release (detainees)."

"If they release our people and the Israeli servicemen, I'll be able to release a large number of Khiam and from Israel," he said at his single-storey stone house in the SLA compound in Marjayoun.

But he stressed: "I won't release anybody if our people and the Israeli servicemen are not freed."

Lahd said nine SLA men have gone missing in clashes with Muslim factions in south Lebanon.

A British newspaper said today that British hostage Terry Waite was alive and well more than three years after he went missing in Lebanon.

The Mail on Sunday quoted Akram Shehabe, a spokesman for Lebanon's Druze religious sect, as saying the Church of England envoy was being held in isolation in southern Beirut.

Foreign Minister Farouq Al-Shara told an Irish envoy today that statements by some Western countries had harmed efforts to win freedom for foreign hostages in Lebanon, Syrian officials said.

They said he made the remark in talks with Irish Ambassador Declan Connelley about Irish university teacher Brian Keenan, who was kidnapped in Beirut four years ago.

A British defence contractor was negotiating with Iran to service its fleet of military and civilian jumbo jets as part of a deal to release the Western hostages in Lebanon, according to a report today.

Washington has already given its permission to go ahead with the contract, worth \$270 million, despite an arms embargo imposed during the Iran-Iraq war, said the Independent on Sunday newspaper.

Rocket attack

KABUL, May 13. (Reuters): Afghan rebels fighting the Soviet-backed government killed four people yesterday in a rocket attack on the capital Kabul, the official Kabul radio said.

The broadcast, monitored in the Pakistani capital Islamabad, said the rebels fired 15 US-made surface-to-surface missiles into Kabul's residential areas, wounding 11 people and causing economic losses.

The Kuwait Singers

Spring... the most welcome of seasons

ON the evenings of May 16 and 17, the Kuwait Singers will present "A Spring Frolic," a selection of music from five centuries that celebrates the delights of spring.

Many of the pieces they will perform are folk songs, some of the thousands inspired by the beauty and gaiety of the season. Examples are the German song *Grub*, the Gaelic tune *Morning Has Broken*, and the madrigals *Rosci Venit Du Printemps* and *Now is the Month of Maying*. Ralph Vaughan Williams also contributes two free adaptations of English folk songs.

From the great musicals of the past century, they will perform a sampling of tunes from shows by Rodgers and Hammerstein, Gilbert and Sullivan, and Lerner and Lane. Today's popular songwriters in the folk tradition will be represented by Gordon Lightfoot and Simon and Garfunkel.

Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* has delighted millions of listeners

since its composition in 1934. The piece uses as its text a set of medieval poems in Latin and German written in the 13th century by German monks. Evidently they had plenty of time for non-religious matters — most of the poems celebrate the joys of life and love. The concert will end with Part One of this work, which is subtitled "Primo Vere" (In Springtime). Haydn's *The Seasons* is another very popular work with choirs and audiences, as is Elgar's *From the Bavarian Highlands*. The choruses chosen from both pieces have seasonal themes.

Alas, spring in Kuwait is all too short and soon disappears in the heat of summer. But Kuwait Singers hope that whatever the weather outside, their concert will offer a hint of the joy and happiness that comes with springtime.

The musical directors are — Bruce Taylor and Neil Rickards and pianists are — Irene Davidson and Peter Currie.



The singers are — sopranos: Irene Davidson, Gerina Hazlewood, Laurie Hill, Sue Hopkings, Beverly Kiele, Wendy Lindley, Pat Macnamara, Susan Mimmac, Kate Monk, Sheila Neelson, Ann Obindilova, Delia O'Connor-Daly.

Nancy Parker, Vivien Symonds. Altos: Julia Boberg, Florence David, Carmel Henry, Sofia Losell, Ulrike Murz, Jane Neenan, Catherine O'Brien, Marianne Raikes, Dorothy Roberts, Elisabeth Small, Janet Taylor, Jo Watson.

Tenors: Belino Afonso, Einer Boberg, Mike Neenan, Bruce Taylor. Basses: Jean-Luc Bossy, Frank Constable, Al Dittick, Gary Hill, Mike Mendenhall, Stephen Raikes, Neil Rickards, Douglas Royle.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Gallery Dahiyat

THE Sixth Arab Children's art show will be held at the Dahiyat Abdullah Al Salem Gallery, near Fatima Mosque, from May 12 to 21. The paintings and drawings of children from several Arab and Gulf countries will be on show. It will be open from 9 am to 12 noon and 5 to 7 pm, except weekends.

SOCIAL

Santacruzan sa Nayan

THE newly-inaugurated Café Maharlika, owned and managed by two budding Filipino entrepreneurs — Rene Dizon and Larry Gallardo will hold the traditional "Santacruzan sa Nayan" on May 25. This will be a sort of beauty hunt searching for the most beautiful "Reyna Elena".

Young girls aged up to ten years old are encouraged to participate in this contest. Valuable prizes await the lucky winners. A line-up of Filipino games would also be a part of this exciting, colourful and nostalgic festivity. Popular games will include "agaw bitin, palasebo, paluan ng palayok" and sack race.

Everyone is invited and delectable Filipino snacks consisting of "ginataang munggo, puto kutsinta, sinokmani, gulaman and sago" will be served at a small fee.

The affair set in the colourful atmosphere with the typical proceedings and presentation of "Flores de Mayo" will also mark the blessing of Café Maharlika by Fr Angelo of the Holy Family Cathedral.

For contest particulars, anyone who's interested can contact either Rene or Larry at Café Maharlika located at Fahd Al Salem Street, Kuwait City, between Hardees and Souk Al Muthahida.

Crazy Thieves

IAC presents a full length hilarious Tamil comedy drama "Crazy Thieves" directed by C. K. V. Ramani on May 25, 1990 at 7.00pm at their auditorium in Funaites. For passes please contact on 3904817, 5616930, 4894874 and 3903879. Vantage seats can be received for yellow and white passes only on May 23 and 24, 1990 from 6.00pm to 8.30pm at IAC office in Funaites.

Khalifa School Bazaar

Tuesday May 15: 6.30 - 9.30 pm, selling useful home produce, gift items, silverware, greeting cards, second-hand clothing and many other things. For more information contact 5712544.

Arab and International

Handicrafts Bazaar 1990

NADI AL FATAT takes pleasure in inviting you to the Arab and International Handicrafts Bazaar 1990 on Tuesday, May 15, 1990 at 5pm. Representatives of the Arab and international diplomatic corps are participating in this festival. Demonstrations of traditional folk music and dance will occur daily from 7pm. The bazaar will continue through for two days — Wednesday, May 16 and Thursday, May 17, 1990 from 10am to 12pm and 4 to 9pm. The proceeds of all sales will be to the benefit of the orphaned children of Lebanon.

United Goans Centre

UNITED Goans Centre takes pleasure to announce to all the KIFF affiliated clubs, their 12th Football League Tournament to be held during the 1st week of June at the Sour grounds. Draws will be held on May 25, 1990 at 5pm sharp in the Indian Caesars Restaurant. Contact the organisers for further details.

Approb meeting

THE bi-monthly meeting of the Approb members will be held on May 17, 1990 at 7pm at the residence of Iqbal Latif. The meeting will be followed by dinner and entertainment. All members are requested to attend.

Meanwhile, the Approb executive board has decided to compile "Who is who" directory of Pakistani professionals and businessmen in Kuwait. Modalities of the project will be discussed at the May 17 meeting.

Indian Arts Circle

HERE'S good news for lovers of one-act plays. A wide variety of one-act plays to reach as wide an audience as possible is going to be staged from 17th to 31st May 1990 at the IAC auditorium for the 2nd IAC One Act Play Competition. After the roaring success of the 1st One Act Play Competition, 16 teams are planning to perform plays in languages ranging from Malayalam to Marathi. The inaugural offering is a Konkani play at 8pm on the 17th May. Watch out for further information in this column.

Painting exhibition

A PAINTING exhibition titled, Around the World, will be held at Kuwait International Hotel from May 8-16 by Mrs Luz Marina Colwell, an American citizen born in Colombia, South America. The exhibition will show subjects from different countries as well as a special section on Kuwait. It includes cityscapes, desertscapes, landscapes and Islamic designs. Tel.: 2530000.

Pakistan Arts Circle

THE executive committee of the Pakistan Arts Circle has the pleasure to announce its forthcoming programme, to be held on June 7, 1990, at 8.00 pm at the Sharq hall.

The programme has been designed in a most splendid manner; first part to cover, an inauguration of poetry collection "Ab-e-nau Bahar" by Hamid Kartarpuri, followed by a mushaira of selected poets of Kuwait. The speakers on the books are Noor Parkar, Ghulam Moustafa Baikes, Tasleem Akbar, the Musarat Jabin Zeb. The programme will be presided over by Dr Masood Alam Shams and a part of inauguration and mushaira will be presented by Dr Saleha Jawad Musa, advisor, Ministry of Education.

The second part of the programme will present musical variety, geet-o-sangeet and ghazals by most renowned artists to be followed by prizes, and many items of interest.

The entry is free to all PAC's members and registered families as well as all Pakistani families but an admission card must be obtained well before the programme. Each card bears a serial number, and has to be retained till the end of the announcement of the valuable prizes.

For further information, please contact Hamid Mahmood Tel. 4716258, Salman Shah 4769520 and M. K. Kidwai 4312016.

Hyderabad Mushaira

THE committee for celebrations of four centenary of Hyderabad Deccan, is going to hold a grand Mushaira, on Thursday, May 17, 1990 at 8.00 pm at Carlton Tower Hotel, Fahd Al Salem Street. Guest poets from Hyderabad will participate in it along with prominent local poets. A limited number of seats left. Reserve your seat now to avoid disappointment. For passes and more details call Khalish Hyderabad, on 4735591 ext. 34 (between 7 am - 12.30 pm).

Kuwait Welsh Society

THE annual general meeting and social evening will be held at 8 pm on May 23, 1990. For details of venue, etc. please ring 3912384, 3713467 or 5740256. Newcomers welcome.

Guardian Angel Club

The Guardian Angel Club take great pleasure in announcing their Konkani drama entitled "Ostorocho Mog" (Woman's Love) directed by Remmie J. Colaco, on June 8, 1990, at the IAC. Goan Charlie Chaplin — Jancito Vaz, Ophelia, H. Britton and Sebbi Coutinho are among the other well known Goan cast.

Boushahri Gallery

AN exhibition of paintings by eight Arab artists will be held at the Boushahri Gallery, North Salmiya Bldg., Salem Al Mubarak St., from May 7. The month-long exhibition is being held under the patronage of Dr Hassan Ali Ibrahim. Some of the artists who will exhibit their works include Jaafar Islah, Jafar Kaki, Rashed Diyab, Dia Al Azzawi and Saleh Jame'ei. It will be open to the public for a month. Timings: 9 am to 12.30 noon and 4 to 7.30 pm.

Opefor get-together dinner

OVERSEAS Pakistani Engineer's Forum is an association of Pakistani Engineers to promote socio-cultural activities in Kuwait. They are holding a get-together dinner at the S&S Hotel Ballroom on Thursday, May 17, 1990 at 7 pm. All members and their guests are welcome. For details, please contact: Khurshed Mozaffar, 2459609, Bader Khan 5610544, Abdul-Rahim 3901491. Any Pakistani engineer who would like to join Opefor may also contact the above office-bearers for enrollment.

Contact

THE last meeting of Contact, the Ladies Information Group, will be held on Saturday May 26, at 10 am at the Messilah Beach Hotel. Newcomers particularly welcome. For more information call 4874513 or 5388105.

SPORTS

Windsurfing

ALL are welcome to the Messilah Beach Hotel open windsurfing event on Friday, May 25, 1990.

Prizes for experienced, novice and lady windsurfers. Entry fee is KD3. Maximum sail size 1D 7.5 square metres. For further information please call 5624111 ext. 739.

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For entry passes contact 3904817, 5616930, 4894874 and 3903879.

HOTELS

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THAI CORNER: Enjoy Thai cuisine every Saturday night at La Brasserie. In addition to our daily lavish buffet our chef will prepare Thai specialties in front of you.

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Messilah Beach Hotel

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CINEMA

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Al Salmiyah
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Al Hamra
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Drive-in
Arabic film
Al Firdous
Dana Pani
Fahadhel Ghulam
Aakhri Ghulam
Fahadhel
Enter The Dragon
Al Jahra
CHUD
Gramada
Hell On The Battleground
Salaikhah
Land Of Doom
Tesh
Sonar Nao Fabaner Bho
Almadi Drive-in
Challenge Of Ninja

PRAYERS

Fajr: 3.27 am
Zuhr: 11.44
Asr: 3.20 pm
Maghreb: 6.32
Isha: 7.59

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.30 Opening with the Holy Quran
9.45 Cartoon serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Daily Arabic serial.
11.30 Cultural film
12.00 Local serial
12.30 News in brief and closedown

EVENING

4.00 Opening with the Holy Quran
4.15 World Today Via Satellite (repetition)
4.30 Cartoon serial
5.00 Children programme — Mama Aneesa and Children
5.30 Public announcements
6.00 Historical serial — Muslim Judges
7.00 Songs
7.15 Holy Quran and Science
8.00 Songs
8.30 Good Evening
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Monday evening local

programme
10.15 Daily Arabic serial — Layali Al Helmiya
11.00 Cultural programme
12.00 News in brief
12.05 World Today via Satellite and Closedown

KTV 2

6.30 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 The Little's — A cartoon series for children.
6.30 Animals of Africa — "The Quest of Food" — A look at animals in Africa moving to find food and protection.
7.00 Roving Report — A weekly round-up of local, Arab and international news.
7.30 Charles in Charge — The professor charges. Charles' friend to take care of his sister. He threatens both Charles and his friend if they refuse the job.

8.00 News in English
8.30 Around the World — A variety of topics and events from all over the world.
9.00 The Equaliser — "Star Fire" — A scientist causes an explosion of a rocket and hence kills a number of people... McCall helps to rescue the scientist from schizophrenia and disclosing dangerous secrets.
10.00 Family Matters — "Mr Badwrench" — Carl's mother spends a long time bathing. Carl plans to find a cheap means to stop her.
10.30 A Classic film — "Boom Town" — Starring Clark Gable, Claudette Colbert. Two friendly oil drillers strike it rich, with a proven mix of romance, action and drama.
12.00 News in brief
12.10 Magazine D'Actualite

Austrian embassy reception



The Austrian embassy recently held a friendly reception on the occasion of the Austrian Week in Kuwait. Many diplomats and friends were invited to attend the celebrations. The Austrian Week ends on May 15. Pictures show the guests at the reception. (Photographer: Chalil Japar)



There is a horse in my office!

Kuwait International faced a serious problem while organising the Austrian Trade and Tourism Fair which is currently being held at the hotel. A Lipizaner horse appeared in the general manager's office and asked for a ticket to the Viennese Opera Ball Orchestra. However, Herman Simon had to disappoint him as the tickets were all sold out!

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Iraq may raise oil issue at summit

NICOSIA, May 13, (Reuters): Iraq and other Arab oil exporters, hailing from low prices, may raise Gulf producers over output levels at this month's Arab summit, regional oil officials said today.

"I do not have the slightest doubt that the issue will be discussed somehow, somewhere during the summit," a senior Gulf oil official told Reuters by telephone.

Prices fell further between now and May 28 some countries are sure to face pressure to cut output, said the official, who regularly attends meetings of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Officials said that on the sidelines of the summit Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, supported by fellow Opec members Algeria, Libya and non-Opec Egypt and Oman, was likely to ask Gulf Arab oil producers to limit output in an effort to raise prices.

At a meeting of the 13 Opec oil ministers in Geneva on May 3, Iraq tried but failed to obtain strong commitments.

Instead, the group opted for voluntary cuts intended to raise prices to Opec's minimum reference price of \$18 a barrel. If implemented, the cuts would take away about six per cent of Opec's total production of around 23.5 million.

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, has already signalled it wants higher prices. Saudi Oil Minister Hashim Nazer told Reuters on May 4 that the kingdom would not produce "a single barrel" above its Opec share of 5.38 million.

The UAE said it would reduce production by 200,000 bpd, but surprised Opec delegates when it announced that the cut would be made from an output level of 2.1 million instead of the widely-expected level of two million.

"If the market does not respond because some of the members are not that serious in their commitments, then the issue will most probably be raised by the Iraqis," said the official who declined to be named.

"The Iraqis feel that Opec decisions have not been definitive," he said.

He said President Hussein could rely on support from Egypt, Libya, Algeria and Oman.

"You have to look at the countries who are hurt most," the official said.

Recent price cuts for countries like Egypt, Algeria and Iraq to help them settle foreign debts. Unlike rich Gulf Arab producers, they do not have spare capacity to increase output and benefit from the recent surge in world demand.

At present, Opec's "basket" of light crudes is around \$2 below the reference price of \$18 a barrel.

For the Arab countries, who own over 70 per cent of the world's proven oil reserves, this means a loss of around \$32 billion a day.

Yugoslavia to expand trade with Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Iraq, May 13, (AP): Yugoslav Prime Minister Ante Markovic and Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan began talks today on economic and trade co-operation between the two countries, a Yugoslav embassy official said.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the talks also involved repayment of a \$500 million loan Belgrade had extended to Baghdad during the Iran-Iraq war.

He said the talks were expected to end Monday with the two sides signing a protocol for co-operation in economic and technical fields.

Markovic arrived Saturday on an official visit that had been delayed for a month by a political dispute between the two countries.

The state-run Iraqi television quoted Markovic as saying on arrival that he looked forward to expanding the volume of trade between the two countries which amounted to \$700 million last year.

"Yugoslav sources said Baghdad hopes to pay back part of its debt by giving Yugoslavia free oil and rescheduling repayment of the rest."

KD deposit rates steady

KUWAIT, May 13, (Reuters): Kuwaiti dollar interbank deposits were steady in a typically dull market, dealers said.

Short-dated funds were quoted little changed from Saturday in a range of 1/8-1/4 per cent. Fixed periods were also steady at 9-1/4-1/2.

The Central Bank left its discount rate unchanged as usual on Sundays at 0.203348 to the dollar.

Meanwhile the Saudi rial interbank deposit market was very quiet today due to the European weekend, dealers said.

They said rates were unchanged from Saturday, but some predicted levels might decline if Eurodollar deposit rates slip when overseas markets open on Monday.

Soaring real estate prices grip Japan

Bonn share market retains its bullish tone

THE world economy and financial markets took a rosy view of events towards the end of 1989 and the beginning of 1990. But now there is a sense of nervousness about the upheavals in Eastern Europe stemming from the possibility that things might get out of control. It remains true, however, that the current underlying economic trends in major industrial countries are vigorous; this is substantiated by the following facts:

Economic growth is running at a brisk 3 per cent in real terms. Capital spending is extremely strong. Inflation has in most cases stabilised, with the notable exception of the UK. Public deficits have narrowed, with the notable exception of Italy.

Average unemployment has dropped back to the same level as in 1984, according to Kuwait International Investment Company's latest survey on world economy.

It must be stressed, however, that these general characteristics do not apply uniformly across countries and sectors within the same country. It is quite obvious that current developments and the outlook are more favourable in continental Europe than in the US or the UK.

The UK economy is not in a good shape at all as inflation and the external gap remain as major problems. The problem of inflation is escalating as the rate moves towards 8 per cent reflecting higher mortgage rates, rising utility price and wage pressure.

The political scene is not favourable at all as conservatives are losing their edge with at least two factors contributing to the decline of their popularity: the introduction of poll tax on April 1, and the fact that the new Chancellor of the Exchequer presented a budget on March 20 that contained nothing to save or restore the credibility of the Thatcher government. High interest rates, and particularly mortgage rates, are politically unpopular, but it seems that nothing can be done right now to reduce them. This is because of both domestic developments (particularly inflation) and international trends.

It also seems that the UK authorities are more willing to let sterling slide to boost exports which could

consequently lead to a shrinkage of the external deficit and avoidance of recession. However, it is believed that weaker sterling on its own cannot achieve these objectives; rather it would reinforce inflation.

In Germany, there is no doubt that the main item on the agenda is reunification with East Germany, and the preliminary step of monetary union. The current debate is about the exchange parity rate between the DM and OM (East German mark).

It is important to fix a favourable rate for the OM, to give East Germans adequate purchasing power that will encourage them to stay where they are rather than to emigrate westwards. However, such a favourable rate will have some

inflationary consequences.

Moreover, faced with competition from the West, East Germany's unproductive industry will have to lay off workers, causing unemployment to emerge as a major problem.

If the East is to catch up with the West, it has been estimated that the former will need DM800 billion of private investment and DM350 billion in public financing for infrastructure.

These factors combined (inflation and financing) will mean that German rates cannot decline for the time being. In fact there is fear that they will head up and even get out of control. However, this fear must not be exaggerated, given that the econ-

omy of East Germany is one sixth of its West German counterpart and that the size of a rough version of East German M3 is no more than 6 per cent of the West German total on the basis of an exchange parity of 3:5.

Moreover, there are several anti-inflationary measures under consideration such as progressive freeze on East German savings and allowing East Germans to buy their own homes.

In Japan there are two central problems: soaring real estate prices and the yen's weak performance against major currencies. Thus, the BOJ is likely to implement restrictive measures to achieve its objectives: slower monetary growth and reappreciation of the yen against the

dollar.

The latter will both help to avoid friction with the US and curb inflation. Given also the situation in the German bond market and the wider than usual differential between overnight and discount rates, the latter may well be raised once more. However, real economic fundamentals in Japan are still outstanding.

In the US, soft landing proved to be a great success in 1989, but the task of holding growth in the 2 per cent - 2.5 per cent in 1990 will not be easy. Current statistical data are mixed but the financial position of business is now as poor as it was during the last recession although the slowdown has just begun.

(Continued on Page 16)

Plans to buy more oil products from Kuwait

Taiwan to step up energy ties: Chang

By M.C. Bose
Business editor

FAST growing energy demand and crude oil will stimulate substantial growth in Taiwan's imports of petroleum products, said the Gulf countries, which are a major supplier, a top energy expert has said.

Yu-Tsai Chang, vice-president of Taiwan's Chinese Petroleum Corporation (CPC) was visiting Kuwait last week to meet the senior officials of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC).

Chang told the Arab Times in an exclusive interview that the main purpose of his visit was to explore more opportunities to expand energy ties between the two countries. "We are keen to buy more crude oil and petroleum products. This year CPC also started purchasing crude oil from Abu Dhabi National Oil Company."

The CPC vice-president said he had discussed with Sheikh Ali Jaber, the managing director of KPC



Yu-Tsai Chang
(Marketing) about the possibility of purchasing Reformat, the blending stock for motor gasoline. Chang said: "CPC has been trying to import

Reformat to meet the growing demand of Taiwan's automobile industry. We are interested in importing this before CPC completes its refinery upgrading programme and new refinery facilities are under construction."

He added: "We also discussed the specifications of the Reformat and hopefully both parties can agree on these specifications and further discussions will be held later." Chang also met Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa, Kuwait's oil minister and discussed the oil-related subjects.

The CPC executive said Taiwan buys about 70 per cent of crude oil from the Middle East and the major portion from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. "At present we buy 75,000 bpd crude oil from Kuwait and also we have LPG contract with Kuwait. We have been purchasing 60,000 tons of LPG per year and Taiwan is considering to buy more LPG and other petroleum products from Kuwait. Our current oil consumption is about a half a million bpd."

Chang said he would also visit Saudi Arabia this week to seek opportunities in order to expand oil relations between Taiwan and Saudi kingdom. Earlier he had visited Abu Dhabi and discussed with ADNOC senior oil officials about purchasing crude oil and petroleum products. Taiwan has been buying crude oil from UAE for many years all from producers other than ADNOC.

China Petroleum's US affiliate Opic Oil America Inc. last month signed an agreement with Hufington under which the Taiwan company would take over the closely held energy company's operations, which include a 20 per cent voting interest in a gas and oil joint venture in east Kalimantan, Indonesia, and 419 acres (169.5 hectares) of real estate in Houston.

Taiwanese oil company was seeking a bridge loan of up to \$700 million from US and several local banks to help finance the purchase of Hufington Corp. real estate and oil and gas interests.

Saudis to set up more joint projects in US

NICOSIA, May 13, (Agencies): Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Hashim Nazer says his country plans more joint oil ventures in the United States and other countries.

He was speaking on his return from New Orleans where he visited refineries and outlets of Star Enterprise, a joint venture between Texaco and Saudi Arabia's state oil company.

"We are intending to enter into similar projects in the United States and other countries," the official said. Nazer, who was in Cyprus, quoted Nazer as saying:

Star Enterprise, which began operating last year, refines, distributes and markets petroleum products under the Texaco trademark in 23 states.

Nazer described the project as successful and said Saudi students would be trained at Star Refineries. Nazer said that Saudi Arabia has complied with the recent agreement of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries to cut oil production.

Speaking to journalists in Riyadh, Nazer said the kingdom "has executed all that it pledged" at the Opec meeting.

Opec ministers agreed earlier this month in Geneva to cut their collective output by 1.445 million barrels a day in an effort to halt the recent slide in world oil prices. Saudi Arabia agreed to cut output by 430,000 barrels per day to bring production down to its Opec quota of 5.38 million barrels per

day. Nazer said the accord was a good one, and prices have now begun to rise gradually.

Nazer visited the United States last week to review the operations of Star Enterprise, the kingdom's US refining and marketing joint venture with Texaco Inc.

Later today, Nazer held a meeting with his Iraqi counterpart Ihsan Al Chalabi during which the two ministers discussed the situation in the oil markets following the Geneva accord. Chalabi was in Riyadh for the fifth meeting of the Iraqi-Saudi joint commission which he co-chairs with Saudi Commerce Minister Suleiman Al-Solaimi.

Oil prices should be far higher: Iran

NICOSIA, May 13, (Reuters): Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said today that world oil prices should be higher and urged fellow Opec members to work for a "just price."

Tehran radio, monitored in Cyprus, said he was speaking at a meeting with visiting Omani Petroleum Minister Said Bin Ahmed Al Shamsi, who arrived in Tehran on Saturday to deliver a message from Sultan Qaboos of Oman.

"In our opinion, the real price of oil should be far higher

than what it is today," Rafsanjani said.

Opec members complain that the group's target price of at least \$18 a barrel has lost at least 20 per cent of its real value since 1980 because of inflation and the depreciation of the US dollar, its only pricing unit.

But countries like Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates — key Gulf Arab producers — favour the present level remaining unchanged in nominal terms until at least 1991 to encourage demand.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

We are pleased to announce that due to heavy demand from the public, we have decided to change the venue of our literary & cultural programmes.

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Iraq warns Britain

LONDON, May 13, (Kuna): Iraq has warned that it was considering breaking off all trade links with the UK, it was revealed here today.

The popular newspaper, the Mail on Sunday, said in a report from Baghdad, that the Iraqi government "threatened the weekly 'exclusively' that if UK customs 'does not relax its inspection of normal commercial contracts, all trade, worth many millions to Britain is in jeopardy'."

This warning came from Iraq's Deputy Foreign Minister Nizar Hamdoun, the Mail on Sunday added.

The paper's correspondent, Ian Walker, said that the continuing row over the so-called supergun was having "serious repercussions."

Since British customs seized the steel tubes, which he insisted were for industrial purposes only, "other contracts had been subjected to minute inspection and re-assessment," the publication added.

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Pakistan to build pipelines in Iran

NICOSIA, May 13. (Reuters): Pakistan has offered to build gas and oil pipelines for Iran and purchase Iranian crude, Iran's Minister of Economics and Financial Affairs Moshen Nourbakhsh said today.

Nourbakhsh, who ended a four-day visit to Islamabad on Saturday after attending a joint economic commission meeting, told Iran news agency two-way trade would top \$400 million this year.

"The most significant agreements were reached in commercial, industrial, energy and cultural fields with emphasis on exchange of technical information," he told Iran without giving details.

He said Pakistan was willing to build oil and natural gas pipelines and cover part of its energy needs through imports from Iran.

"The two countries may seek assistance from a third party for implementing such projects," Nourbakhsh said.

"Pakistan may also assist Iran in establishment of sugar and cement factories, plans for which have been presented to Iran and will be assessed soon," the minister said.

Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will pay a one-day visit to Iran on Tuesday. Bhutto's visit is part of a tour of Islamic countries to drum up support for Pakistan in its dispute with India over Kashmir.

British inflation moves up

LONDON, May 13. (AP): Britain's annual inflation rate, pushed higher by new taxes, moved up to an eight-year high of 9.4 per cent in April, the government said Friday.

But the rate wasn't as bad as the 9.7 per cent rate the financial markets had expected, and the pound and stock prices jumped on the late-morning news.

Fighting inflation is Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's No. 1 economic priority and her Conservative government has increased interest rates to 15 per cent to try to slow down demand.

A new per-capita tax, increases in excise duties and higher utility charges combined to push the inflation rate to its highest level since May 1982 when it stood at 9.5 per cent, the Central Statistical Office said.

In March, the rate stood at 8.1 per cent.

The office said its retail price index rose 3 per cent in April from March. The monthly rise was the largest since April 1980 when the index gained 3.4 per cent.

The index, which uses a January 1987 base of 100, stood at 125.1 in April, 121.4 in March, and 114.3 in April 1989.

"Everyone was sure it was going to double figures," said a trader at a major British bank, speaking anonymously. "Now people are going to say, 'that's not too bad'."

Economists are predicting that inflation will peak at above 10 per cent sometime later this year.

The Bank of England on Thursday forecast inflation at about 10 per cent for the near-term, with a peak in the third quarter.

Soviet premier seeks to soothe fears on economy

MOSCOW, May 13. (AP): Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov went on Soviet television Saturday night and said planners would seek to hold back high prices and unemployment as the country moves toward a market economy.

The government will do all it can, including indexing wages to prices, to blunt economic reforms, Ryzhkov said in an interview.

He stressed that price reforms would never be enacted without discussing them first with the Soviet people.

"For these radical measures, one would introduce them only with the people's agreement," he said, adding that was the only way to avoid a political and social crisis.

Ryzhkov said he favoured a planned market economy, saying neither radical nor conservative approaches are appropriate.

Soviet leaders have been wrestling with how to introduce radical reforms scheduled to go in effect this summer, without triggering public opposition

and social upheaval.

In recent weeks, officials have sought to emphasise that a Polish-style "shock therapy" approach to reforms, including a sudden freezing of prices, devaluation of the currency and rapid unemployment, was not planned.

Ryzhkov's appearance on television appeared to underscore that message.

The economic plan is being drafted by the presidential council — President Mikhail Gorbachev's advisory body — and Ryzhkov said it would be published and debated in the Supreme Soviet legislature after May 30.

Ryzhkov said radical changes would never be introduced without a special "mechanism" that would protect people from inflation.

He said the government is working on such a mechanism for introducing an indexing system, so that when prices go up after three months, salaries also will rise. He did not elaborate.

"We should create such a system of prices that on one side will enable us to

hold down certain prices in the sphere of production as well as on the consumer market — and to be safe from spiralling inflation — and on the other side to give an opportunity to develop the free prices which will move the economy ahead," Ryzhkov said.

Gorbachev adviser Alexander Yakovlev has said prices must rise sufficiently to absorb an estimated 500 billion roubles (\$825 billion at the official exchange rate), saved by citizens with few consumer goods to buy.

The government disagrees with those who believe unemployment will serve economic development, Ryzhkov said. He emphasised that the Soviet constitution guarantees the right to work and that this right should be fulfilled.

There currently are 10 million job vacancies, he said, especially in the service industry and in second shifts at factories. Ryzhkov said the government also would introduce a system for job retraining.

The week in business

Fed to move rates down

Wholesale inflation eases

NEW YORK, May 13. (UPI): This week could very well go down as the one that set the economic tone for 1990 — the dollar in decline, the economy in a much more pronounced slowing trend and interest rates pointing lower.

A bearish trend was confirmed by economic figures issued at week's end by the government, showing that wholesale inflation eased markedly while retail sales were down. Economists said that information cleared the way for the Federal Reserve to move interest rates down in the weeks ahead.

That was quite a change from economic sentiment just over a week before, when financial markets feared the Fed was thinking about hiking short-term rates by tightening reserves in the banking system to offset inflation. But inflation appears to have waned, and growth could be weak this year.

Following the previous week's news of higher unemployment, the Commerce Department said retail sales fell 0.6 per cent in April after rising 0.2 per cent in March, indicating a slower economy. Wholesale prices for finished goods dropped 0.3

per cent in April after falling 0.2 per cent in March.

The news was very bearish for the dollar. It plunged against the West German mark and the Swiss franc in particular as big global investors shifted funds to markets with firmer interest rate outlooks. Some analysts thought the unit might even plummet to the all-time lows of 1987-88.

Fed chairman Alan Greenspan gave indications that his Central Bank is worried about a credit squeeze slowing down critical sectors like construction and real estate, already hard hit in the northeast and southwest.

He and other regulators met in Washington with banking leaders and urged them not to close the lending spigot just because US officials have tightened supervision on real estate loan portfolios. National concern had been mounting about a "credit crunch" denying loans to solid businesses.

It was a good week for the treasury, though, as it carried off a \$30.5 billion quarterly refunding operation. Most important was an auction of \$10 billion in 30-year bonds, whose yield under the ham-

mer would suggest where home mortgage rates might be headed.

The 30-year long bonds were sold at an average yield of 8.84 per cent, which was as high as at-auction yield as had been seen in about a year — but was off recent market high yields which were topping 9 per cent. For the short term, at least, the implication was that interest rates have peaked out.

A well-received treasury refunding, some good news about inflation and a weak economic report combined to send the stock market soaring Friday and the Dow industrials up more than 90 points on the week.

The Dow Jones industrial average surged 63.07 Friday to close at 2801.58 for a weekly gain of 91.22 points — about 3.3 per cent. The gain was the Dow's second-best weekly showing this year, surpassed only by the 96.17-point gain in the week ended March 2.

Among the broader market averages, the New York Stock Exchange composite index rose 6.86 points to close the week at 192.24. Standard and Poor's 500-stock index surged 13.61 to 352.00.

Advances easily outpaced declines 1,336-598 among the 2,182 issues traded this week. Big Board volume totalled 821,762,784 shares, compared with 699,525,060 a week earlier and 804,370,560 a year ago.

The first stage of the treasury's quarterly refunding, Tuesday's auction of \$10.5 billion in 3-year notes, found strong interest among investors. The average yield on the new 3-year note was 8.74 per cent, which analysts called in line with expectations.

The news meant that demand for the notes was apparently healthy and that interest rates did not have to hit unexpectedly high levels to attract investors — an encouraging development for the stock market.

On the second day, \$10 billion in 10-year notes were sold at an average yield of 8.88 per cent, also within expectations.

The refunding concluded Thursday with the auction of \$10 billion in 30-year bonds at an average yield of 8.84 per cent, a lower rate than expected. All told, analysts said the refunding went more smoothly than expected.

Soaring real estate prices grip Japan

(Continued from Page 15)

The problem is that current indebtedness of economic agents is too high to let growth take off again.

There is a policy dilemma. A country with a balance of payments deficit tends to lose its freedom (or some of it) to run independent exchange and interest rate policies. The US authorities may feel that with the stabilisation of inflation there is a need to reduce interest rates to boost growth.

Such an action, however, cannot be taken independently of economic conditions elsewhere since it has ramifications for the financing of the external deficit. Now that Japanese capital is more willing to stay at home and earn domestic rates and German capital is geared to travel East, the US deficit cannot be financed unless the US rates offer substantial premiums over Japanese and German rates.

It seems that the US has learnt this lesson the hard way. Considering these factors, the most optimistic scenario for the US will set the pace of growth well below that in other industrial countries.

An increasingly bearish sentiment pervaded the major international financial markets during the first quarter of this year, primarily driven by deteriorating world-wide inflationary expectations, political and economic events unfolding in Europe especially the astonishing push for German unification as well as the widely fluctuating foreign markets.

This in turn contributed to the general malaise of global bond markets where yields soared to record levels since the start of the new decade that spilled over into the equity markets of which, Tokyo was the worst performer.

Nevertheless, the West German share market retained its bullish tone and was the only large stock

exchange in the world to record a positive performance since the end of 1989.

Enthusiasm cooled off in the US Treasury market where the yield on the benchmark 30-year bond jumped on March 13 to 8.71 per cent — the highest level since May 1989, despite the strengthening safe-haven status of the dollar which was aided by persistent uncertainties over the political and fundamental developments overseas, notably in West Germany and Japan.

The sharp sell-off was induced by signs of a healthy US economy stemming from the upward revision in the fourth quarter GNP growth to an annual rate of 1.1 per cent from 0.9 per cent estimated previously, mounting anxieties about the still disturbingly high underlying inflation rate of 4.6 per cent year-on-year at the retail level in February (implies absolutely no scope for the Fed to loosen its credit grip in the near term), and the narrowing yield differential between the dollar and the other key currencies that tend to dwindle overseas demand for US securities.

On the other hand, the US stock market began 1990 with a record closing high of 2810.15 on Jan 2 amid optimism about the economy, boosting cyclical issues.

However, the rally faltered with the DJIA registering on Jan 22 a 77-point drop — the largest since the 190 point decline on Oct 13 last year, reflecting the Fed chief's tough stance on inflation coupled with concern over global interest rates particular in Germany and Japan which are anathema to the equities, worsening collapse in corporate profitability that is the Achilles' heel of the nation's longest peacetime business expansion, and declining takeover activity due to weakness in

the junk bond market caused by Drexel and Campeau Corporation chapter 11 bankruptcy filing. Overall the market lost 1.7 per cent compared with the previous quarter's 2.2 per cent rise.

The Japanese bond market continued to tumble with the yield on the key government bond No. 119 at 4.8 per cent climbing on March 22 to 7.425 per cent — the highest point since 1984. Fueling the accelerating pace in yields were the beleaguered Japanese currency which hit a 3-year low of 159.25 to the dollar on March 28 attributed partly to continued squabbling between the Central Bank and the Finance Ministry over the monetary policy, persistent overshooting in the money supply M2+CDs that expanded at an annual rate of 11.8 per cent in February (hinting at a possible further credit policy tightening to curb inflationary pressures worsened by a sharp leap in February consumer price index to +3.6 per cent annualised from +3.0 per cent in January), and the unsettling political situation in the Soviet Union since Gorbachev is regarded in Japan as the key to global stability.

Furthermore, a sudden turbulence gripped the Tokyo stock market where the widely-watched Nikkei was sliced off by 23 per cent, notwithstanding the continuing steady economic expansion. The highlight was the key index's second largest decline ever of 1569.10 points or 4.5 per cent on Feb 26 since Oct 1987, breaking the psychological 30,000 barrier for the first time in 15 months.

The main driving forces behind the steep decline were the realisation that the related one percentage point hike in Japan's discount rate on March 20 to 5.25 per cent failed to restore confidence in the yen and to forestall inflation, the lack of progress on US/

Japan trade talks underlining the fragile political grip of the Kaifu government, and pessimism over corporate profit growth generated in part by the declining trade surplus which shrank for the 10th straight month to \$5.0 billion in February from \$7.23 billion a year ago.

The mood was extremely gloomy on the German bond market where 10-year yields peaked above 9 per cent in early March for the first time in 8 years, overlooking the D-mark's 6-year high of 93.50 to the yen amid increased prospect for investment opportunities in the aftermath of the Conservative's victory in March 18 East German elections. Exacerbating the downward trend were fears that rapid moves toward the proposed 1-to-1 swap between the inconvertible Ostmark and the powerful D-mark as part of the German monetary union would fuel inflation (which at the retail level edged up slightly in March to 2.8 per cent annualised from 2.7 per cent in February) and drive in the key M3 money supply at a 5.8 per cent annual rate in February pointing to further Bundesbank credit policy tightening. However,

The impressive performance was accounted for by a perception that the economic growth is still robust evidenced in the 1989 GNP growth rate of annualised 4.0 per cent — the sharpest pace in a decade (brightened hopes for positive corporate earnings growth), strong demand for blue chip companies likely to benefit from East German reforms, and the encouraging improvement in the 1989 capital account gap to DM117.6 billion from revised DM120.9 billion in 1988 that ignited optimism about the return of overseas investment.

(To be continued)

Gulf Bank to extend working hours

IN its endless efforts to offer banking convenience and innovative services to enhance customer satisfaction and upgrade service quality, The Gulf Bank never stops to innovate in its known unique ways.

The Gulf Bank has announced that it will keep selected branches for the time being, open for an extra hour in the morning beyond the usual banking closing time at 12:00 pm.

Fahaeel Co-operative, Bayan, Beirut Street and Jleeb Shuyoukh branches will be open for banking business from 8:00 am till 1:00 pm from the 1st to the 24th day of the month. Both Bayan and Shuwaikh branches will operate under these new extended business hours throughout the month.

Extending normal business hours for an extra hour during the peak morning period is both more attractive and convenient for the government, business and trading sectors. They will have a more efficient and extended banking period in the morning to catch up for a longer period, with their business partners and associates abroad rather than

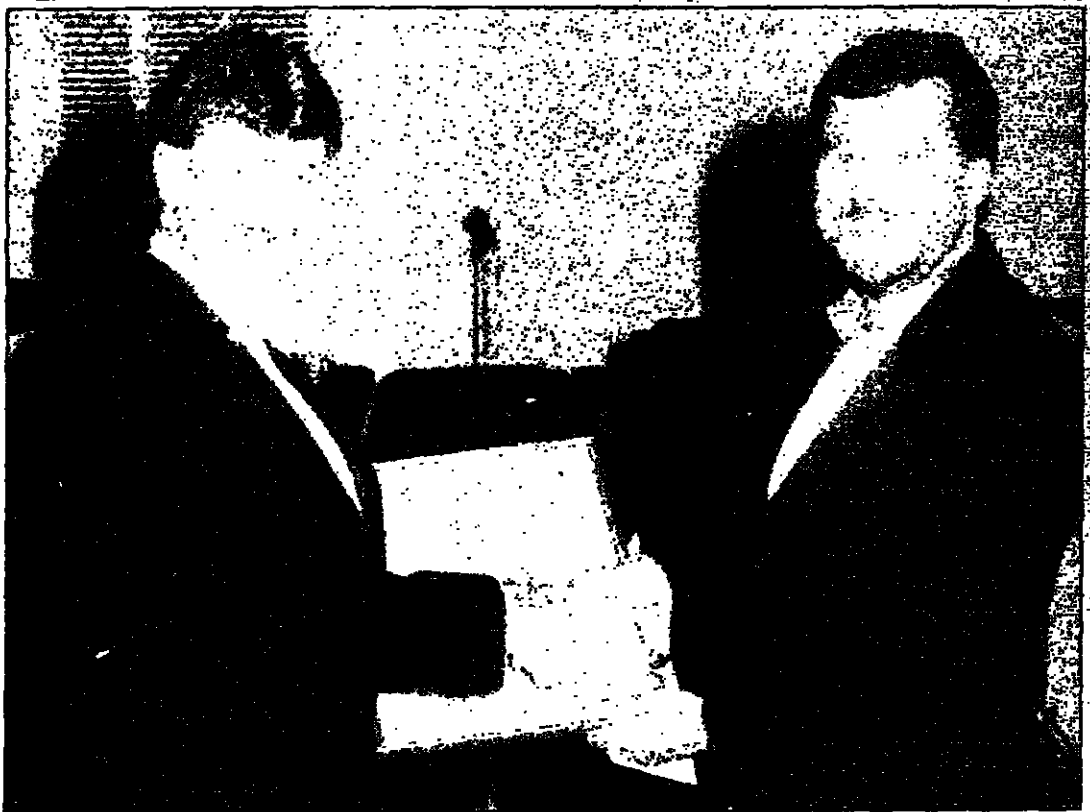
waiting for the next day. This extra hour offers extra business opportunities for the commercial and trading community which usually closes down for the lunch break around that time.

Merchants, business and employees will find it much more beneficial to still being able to conduct business with an open Gulf Bank branch while all other banks have already closed down at 12:00 pm.

The Gulf Bank is starting now with Fahaeel Coop, Bayan, Beirut Street, Jleeb Shuyoukh and Shuwaikh, with further branches opening for one extra morning hour, soon.

During the last Ramadan, the bank kept its doors open for servicing its customers and the public, at selected strategic branches, during the evening hours in order to help customers cope with the shifting business hours during the holy month.

Again, some more good news from the pioneering banking institution in Kuwait, The Gulf Bank never stops to find unique ways of serving and helping



Air Cargo News International editor Nigel Tomkins (left) presents Emirates UK cargo manager Ray Disson with the Cargo Airline of the Year to the Middle East award.

Emirates wins top cargo award

EMIRATES, the international airline of the UAE, has been voted Cargo Airline of the Year to the Middle East by Britain's air freight shippers for the second year in succession.

The poll was conducted among the readers of the trade's leading publication, Air Cargo News International, whose companies were involved in air shipping or freight forwarding out of the UK.

The award presentation was made to Emirates UK cargo manager Ray Disson by Nigel Tomkins, editor of Air Cargo News International, at a gala charity dinner in London.

Readers had to consider several aspects in the poll, including enquiries and reservations, the carrier's "flow-on-booked" record, cargo reception facilities and efficiency, customer service and post flight information.

"With professional and very popular staff, Emirates has approached the freight business with the emphasis on a high-quality service," said Tomkins.

"Our readers vote for those carriers which they believe offer the best all-round cargo service. Obviously, Emirates has achieved this better than any other airline in the Middle East."

Tomkins added that Emirates won its second

consecutive award in the category by a comfortable margin from Gulf Air and Saudia. Overall Cargo Airline of the Year award went to Lufthansa.

Ram Menen, Emirates cargo manager system-wide, said: "This award is very important to us since the people who voted for Emirates are all air freight professionals."

In 1988, the same magazine readers named Emirates as joint runner-up in the Cargo Airline of the Year Award.

"While these awards reflect our dedication to cargo, we are not resting on our laurels," added Menen. "We intend to continue to introduce more innovations so we can maintain and develop the service we offer to customers."

Although Emirates has been operating to Europe for less than three years, its passenger and cargo service have received a number of international accolades.

These include: Best Carrier to the Middle East by Executive Travel; first runner-up in the category, Best Airline to the Middle East, Pacific, Africa and South America by Check-in magazine, and fifth in the world for its long-haul Business Class service by Business Traveller.

Financial assets

Businessmen beat the freeze

RIO DE JANEIRO, May 13. (Reuters): The ingenuity of Brazilian businessmen has pumped billions of dollars back into an already overheated economy despite a Draconian government freeze on financial assets.

Faced by an annual inflation rate of nearly 5,000 per cent, newly-elected President Fernando Collor de Mello froze most of the money in private bank accounts for an average of two years.

The move on Collor's second day in office stunned Brazil. Economists described it as one of the most severe economic reforms in world history. Central Bank President Ibrahim Eris said the equivalent of \$85 billion, or more than two-thirds of the money in bank accounts, had been frozen.

Companies had big difficulties covering their payroll costs and some people predicted there would be a severe depression.

A few weeks later, the talk is different. Economists and financial analysts say companies, possibly through fraud, have unlocked a considerable amount of money. Fears of a depression have receded but inflation has not been checked.

Three major anti-inflation plans under Collor's predecessor, Jose Sarney, failed to control prices and analysts said it was still an open question whether Collor would be more successful.

Economist Eduardo Gineti da Fonseca of the University of Sao Paulo, who has studied companies' attempts to get at their frozen funds, said between \$10 and 40 billion had been released in a bewildering number of ways, both legal and illegal.

Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello told the business newspaper Gazeta Mercantil that liquidity had increased from 9.6 per cent of gross domestic product to 14.1 per cent of GDP on April 30. She put GDP at \$350 billion.

Funds were frozen by abandoning the new cruzado in favour of the cruzeiro and setting limits on how much money could be converted into cruzeiros.

For example, Brazilians were allowed to withdraw 25,000 cruzeiros (\$500), or 20 per cent, from money market accounts, depending on which was the greater.

Analysts said opportunities for fraud existed because state and local governments and charities were not bound by the restrictions. Charities have converted 28.5 billion new cruzeiros into cruzeiros, Cardoso told a Senate hearing on Thursday.

Gazeta Mercantil described this as "a pretty big figure which raises suspicions of fraud." The suspicion is that people contributed new cruzeiros to charities and received the money back in cruzeiros.

Companies have also been able to shed money denominated in new cruzeiros through other legal loopholes, such as by paying taxes in new cruzeiros.

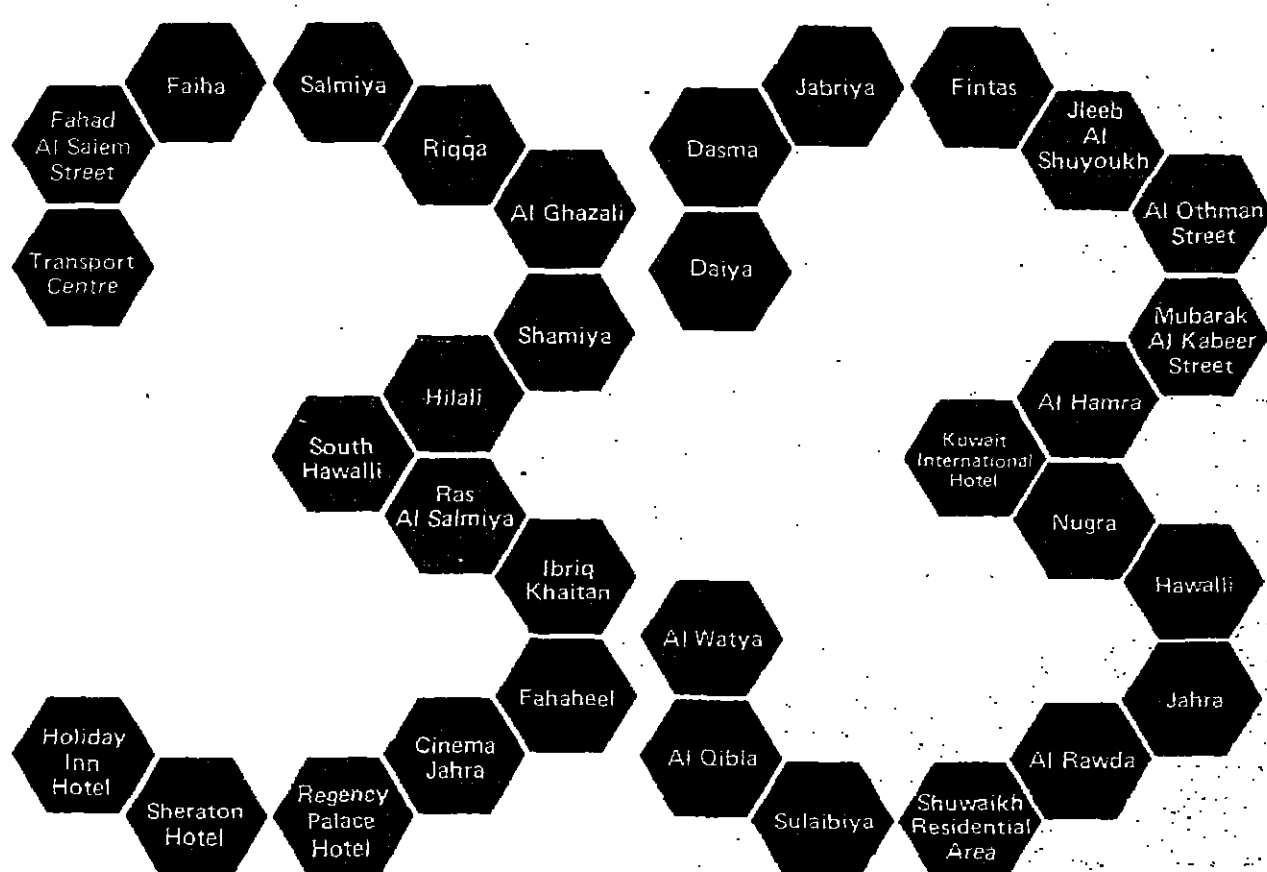
Rio de Janeiro economist Edmar Bacha said: "Most firms have managed to get rid of their new cruzeiros, one way or another."

The only Bank
that opens
33 of its branches
every afternoon
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from 5 to 7 p.m.

Cretan vine growers face tougher times as EEC phases out subsidies

Sultana raisins war erupts

AVGENIKI, Crete. (Reuters): Cretan farmers fear a reduction in European community subsidies will destroy their 4,000-year tradition of vine growing on the rolling foothills of Mount Iidi.

Greek sultana raisin producers meet at the village coffee shop to discuss EEC proposals to cut back price supports for their crop. The talk is tough.

"We are getting very angry. We see our raisins rotting but we refuse to go to the merchants," said Giorgos Kosmadakis, 50.

Slipping shots of tsikoudia, a grape firewater, they are preparing for war in case the EEC cuts subsidies for their sultana raisins.

This area south of Iraklion is ideal for vine growing and the Minoans are

believed to have produced wine and raisins here and traded them around the Mediterranean since before 2,000 BC.

After almost a decade of rich hand-outs which raised their standard of living and helped them cope with 'phylloxera', a bug which attacks vine roots, Cretans now fear the tradition could end.

EEC ministers have deferred until June 30 a decision on phasing out price supports for sultanas over the next few years and replacing them with a flat fee paid by the hectare.

In 1987 the EEC paid 296.8 million European currency units (\$356.2 million) to Cretan sultana farmers. They will never again get such large

sums if price supports are cut.

Greece is the EEC's only sultana producer. Some 25,000 to 30,000 farming families in Crete produced 7,800 tonnes of raisins in 1988.

The EEC consumed 34,232 tonnes of heavily subsidised sultanas in 1988 but let the rest rot or be sold cheaply as animal feed while importing another 181,289 tonnes, mainly cheaper Turkish and higher quality American raisins.

Last year some 60,000 tonnes were dumped at co-operative warehouses in Iraklion.

Agriculture Ministry officials said Greece would argue for a new subsidy worked out per hectare but weighted for quality and quantity.

But they said it was time for sultana producers to learn to market their product and get good prices themselves.

"We are not turning them back; we are making them think. Now they feel secure with minimum prices and don't even try," said an official who asked not to be named.

He said many sultana growers were likely to give up because of the phylloxera blight and the reduction in subsidies, but he seemed unworried.

"Sultanas have a world overproduction problem. Greek exports have dropped because prices rose many times over the average EEC inflation rate in the last decade," he said.

The Agriculture Ministry said

Greece has given more than 75 per cent of the 1.3 trillion drachmas (\$8.4 billion) it has received from the EEC since 1981 to farmers although agriculture accounts for only 16 per cent of its Gross Domestic Product.

But for the farmers still fighting phylloxera on their tiny irregular patches of land, the issue is one of daily bread on the table. They have sour memories of the middleman who set prices before Greece joined the EEC in 1981.

"We won't be able to deal with the merchants, they will blackmail us, buy at any price they want. The EEC thinks we're all businessmen... we are not," Giorgos Vlahoyannakis, 50, said.

The former director of the Vine Ins-

titude of Iraklion. Vangelis Vardakis said phylloxera has driven a lot of farmers to grow other crops such as olives which are less profitable but less labour intensive.

"Since the 1970s, when phylloxera appeared in Crete, about 20 per cent of production has been ruined. Farmers were subsidised to replant but it takes four to five years till the new vines produce so many have abandoned their fields," Vardakis said.

People on this island, who seem like the descendants of the affable but erratic Cretan hero of Nikos Kazantzakis' book Zobra the Greek, feel the EEC technocrats are hurting their pride.

"During the Sixties we had no help from the state and many of us had to go to Germany to work; in the Seventies phylloxera cut our wings," farmer Michalis Bolakis, 42, said.

"In the Eighties the state helped us with replanting but this new directive is disastrous. We will never accept it," Bolakis said.

Most are over 50 years old but will not think of retiring on the state pension of 10,000 drachma (\$70) a month.

"The future of this cultivation is uncertain and so is ours. I have to work till the end of my life because I can't live off my pension. Are we all to become waiters and hoteliers?" Vlahoyannakis asked.



A Swiss landscape: nature still intact

Swiss summer experience

SWITZERLAND has always been a vacation spot par excellence. It offers varied landscapes, sports, language and culture — all packed into a small area. Switzerland also offers the most modern amenities and superior services, as well as nature, still intact, and fresh air. Thanks to its excellent, dense rail and road network, every desired destination can be reached easily and quickly.

To these ideal prerequisites for a trip to Switzerland, Swissair is now adding a uniquely flexible hotel offer — "Summer Experience". To fill the need for individual, independent travel, Swissair has developed a hotel voucher system able to cater the most varied customer wishes: almost 200 hotels in about 60 Swiss cities and resorts accept these Swissair hotel vouchers. Guests may choose from among five different price categories, suited to every wish and budget — and they may buy the desired number of hotel vouchers before their trip. Additional information

is available from your travel agent or directly from Swissair.

Travelling within Switzerland is also easy and comfortable. Either with a rented car or the Swiss Travel System — encompassing public means of transportation, including trains, postal buses, ships, etc. There are attractive tourist offers available for both rental cars or public transportation — and they can be booked and bought through Swissair.

"Summer Experience" can be combined with the most varied wishes of guests: with cultural interests, with sports activities, with further education, or simply with relaxing. Hang-gliding — a challenge to the modern leucis.

Even as a spectator, you won't be able to resist the fascination of these flying people with their colourful chutes. What a feeling it must be for the hang-gliders themselves — observing the earth from above, far from the hectic world and its noise.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

QUESTION: Life here at school is different than anything I have ever experienced. While studies are important, much of the talk in the dorm is about guys, sex and AIDS. Everybody has their own idea about who and what is safe, and I don't want to get more than I am willing to bargain for. I think you might include an answer that would provide some indications about reducing risks, if one chooses to have an intimate relationship.

Answer: Despite all the educational programmes now in place, it's clear from your question (and others I have received) that more information is needed. There are several precautions you can take to minimise your risk of getting acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) and other sexually transmitted diseases.

The least risk of infection comes with a long-term monogamous relationship, with no other sexual contacts. That puts marriage and fidelity in the forefront of the prevention of sexually transmitted disease. (Of course, there are no risks at all associated with celibacy!) If both partners are monogamous and have not been previously exposed to the AIDS virus, there is virtually no chance of getting the disease unless one partner uses intravenous drugs.

The greatest risk of infection comes with casual sex with more than one partner and with people who you hardly know. Chances are, if a person will have sex with you, even though they hardly know you, they may have many other partners. The more partners, the greater the risk. If you have sex with anyone other than an exclusive partner, precautions must be taken. A condom should be used. This can protect both the wearer and his partner from contact

CONDOMS HELP REDUCE RISK OF AIDS

with secretions, discharges and lesions. A condom should not only be worn for intercourse, but for oral sex as well. Likewise, a condom should be used for penile-anal contact, even between monogamous partners. Oral-anal contact should be universally discouraged.

A casual kiss, such as a peck on the cheek, or even on the lips, even from someone who is infected with the AIDS virus, is probably harmless. If an infected person coughs or sneezes on you, there is also very little reason for concern. Deep kissing involving tongues may be a hazard, though, because the AIDS virus has been found in saliva, and there can be an exchange of saliva with that type of contact. Therefore, passionate, deep kisses should be avoided with casual sex partners, especially when there is a possibility that you have an open cut on the tongue or in your mouth. There is no available protection to reduce the risk of infection from oral saliva contact with the vulva or vagina.

When using condoms, to prevent the spread of viruses, several precautions should be taken. Condoms should be used only once and then thrown away. The condom should be put on early in sexual foreplay, since many men secrete pre-ejaculatory fluid. Withdrawal of the condom-covered penis should be done carefully to prevent leaking of fluids. Because many men lose their erections very shortly after ejaculation, the condom and base of the penis should be grasped and held together during withdrawal, to reduce the risk of spillage.

This is obviously not a decision to make without more information than I can provide you here. Check with the health facility on your area; I'm sure they can provide you with much more information.

The Black Princess and the Knight

The craziest plans can come true

By Katia Sabet

CAIRO (WNL): A motorbike, lots and lots of maps, a Swiss army knife. That's all it takes to go around the world — if your name is Emilio Scotto, that is. And it's not just any old trip around the world. This 35-year-old adventurer from Argentina is making an art of it. His aim? To visit every single one of the planet's 172 nations.

"Mommy, I want to travel around the world," the young boy used to say to his mother. Today Scotto is close to making his dream come true. On the way he stopped in Egypt, the 101st country on his list. "I'm not the first nor the last to go around the world," he said in an interview in Cairo, displaying with pride some of the 70,000 slides he has taken during his travels, and noting that he has earned a mention in the Guinness Book of Records.

As a faithful and loyal travelling companion, the tall and energetic Scotto has his "Black Princess" — a 1100 cc Honda Gold Wing motorcycle that has carried him over 300,000 kilometres (more than 186,000 miles), burning up in the process 41 tires, 22,000 liters (about 5,900 gallons) of gas and 750 liters (about 800 quarts) of oil. Scotto is sponsored by several companies and is financing his trip by selling articles he writes along the way and by giving lectures on the countries he has visited.

On the highways of Dubai, in the Arabian Gulf desert, Scotto and his Princess hit record speeds of 240 km (150 miles) per hour, but they probably set a record slow when travelling through Guinea on his way from Guinea Bissau and Sierra Leone on the coast of West Africa. There, slogging his way through marshlands, Scotto covered only 15 km (9 miles) a day although he was on the road from 7 am to 7 pm.

When crossing a country is impossible, because of political problems like closed borders, Scotto and the Princess have to fly, which creates problems when the bike does not fit into the hold of an aircraft and has to be taken apart. Scotto recalls one occasion when his bike has to be dismantled for a flight between the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, and Addis Ababa, in Ethiopia. Far from being angry at the delay this caused, passengers got off the plane and encouraged the traveller with laughter and applause. Says Scotto, "What I find fascinating about travelling, is meeting with so many different people. This makes my trip far more than a lesson in geography, it is a lesson in humanity."

Scotto realizes that the five years he has been on the road have changed his outlook on life. "I used to believe that being white, I belonged to a superior race, and these five years have given me a more realistic vision of the world. I have had contacts with people of all races, and I have realized that although people may be different in terms of mentality and customs, human values hold true everywhere. I have met with enormous generosity and friendliness," he noted.

"I found French-speaking Africans much more friendly than Frenchmen in France," he added. And contrary to what he had been told, he found Germans open-minded and friendly. In the course of his journeys, Scotto has lived through countless adventures. Among his most vivid memories is a trip down the Amazon river on a rickety old boat from the port of Belem in northern Brazil to Manaus, in the

'When you say Arabs in the West, people often react in a negative way. In reality, the Arab people I have visited, be it in North Africa, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Jordan, Syria or Lebanon, have been extremely generous, honest, disciplined and polite': Scotto



Travelling around the world on a motor bike is not everybody's idea of fun but to Emilio Scotto it's a dream come true and a mission.

heart of the Amazonian jungle — a distance of some 1,700 km (1,000 miles). His companions aboard the ship also sought adventure, but in the gold fields, and they were armed to the teeth with knives and guns.

"I didn't feel too comfortable," he recalls. Mealtimes on the boat proved to be something of a contest — first come, first

served — and Scotto soon learned that if he wanted to eat, he had to scramble for his meal. After a few tries, he succeeded in filling his plate, which seemed to win him the respect of his fellow travellers. "They started talking and asking me what I was doing on the Amazon river with my motorbike. I told them about my childhood dream, the problems I'd had and the likely

difficulties I would be facing," said Scotto. Later in the evening, everybody laid down at the table, weapons clearly laid out, to play a card game known as "Bitcho". Though reluctant, Scotto had little choice but to join the game, and after hearing a brief explanation of the rules, he found himself winning almost every round. "I had a pile of bank notes and coins in front of me," he said. Then the captain decided it was time to go to bed. "I told them it must have been beginner's luck, apologized and offered to give them back their money. They wouldn't hear of it," Scotto said. Much to his surprise, the men put away their weapons and went quietly to bed. "It was only much later that I understood that the game had been an indirect way for these tough guys to help me with my travels."

Scotto firmly believes that if people knew each other better, there would be fewer conflicts. "Everywhere I have been, people are tired of war and nobody believes war is a way of solving political problems," says the biker. To do his bit, he is using his trip to spread the message of peace he has heard so often along the way. "This is also a journey for the cause of peace," he explained, adding that he has written to all the heads of state who received him, from former US President Ronald Reagan to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, to Libya's Colonel Kaddafi, and even the Pope. "This is a letter of peace that expresses not only my opinion, but that of the many people I have met during my five years of travel."

During his odyssey Scotto has also noticed that reality is often very different from the way situations are presented in the news media. "Take Colombia, for example. It is pictured as a country riddled with drugs, a country that is doomed along with its people. The drug problem certainly exists, but it is far from affecting the whole country, and the Colombians are some of the most charming people in the world," Scotto said.

"Another example: when you say 'Arabs' in the West, people often react in a negative way. In reality, the Arab people I have visited, be it in North Africa, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Jordan, Syria or Lebanon, have been extremely generous, honest, disciplined and polite. The Arabs are the people who have made me feel most welcome and are those I remember the most fondly." The traveller also deplores the media's silence concerning events in Africa. "For some mysterious reason, the media does not speak of some of the horrors that go on under some of the dictatorships in Africa," Scotto said, "and rare are the voices that speak out to denounce the injustices committed there."

Scotto still has a lot to see. He is looking forward to discovering Asia, which may take another three or four years. After that, he plans to travel across the Antarctic on his motorbike. Meanwhile, his first book is about to come out in four or five languages under the title, "The Great Journey of the Princess and the Knight." Other plans include finding sponsors for the annual rally from Paris, France, to Dakar, Senegal, or the "Pharaohs' Rally" through Egypt.

"I have another wish," concludes Scotto: "To travel in space to the moon. I know it sounds crazy, but who would have known when I was 12 years old and wanted to travel around the world, that even the craziest plans can come true?"

Education

Black and white of learning in South Africa

SOWETO, South Africa, May 8. (Reuters): When Samuel Molokoane began teaching at a high school in Soweto, he had to wait eight months for his first pay cheque.

"I came to face with the frustration and anger of being a black teacher," he said.

For years Molokoane, 36, and many others suffered what they say are inferior conditions without resorting to strikes, but in March he and 6,000 colleagues in Johannesburg's black townships of Soweto and Alexandra downed chalks, leaving 500,000 pupils unattended.

Although teachers and pupils returned to classes on April 18, normal work has resumed only in some schools.

"We welcome the return of pupils and teachers to school, but sadly there is still no schooling taking place in many institutions. As one region returns to normal, others are now simmering, getting ready for their own demonstrations," the biggest black daily, the Sowetan, lamented in an editorial.

According to Stoffel van der Merwe, the white government minister responsible for black education, the strike involved 63 high schools and 290 primary schools in

Soweto alone.

He said that countrywide, 820 black schools had been hit between January and the beginning of April.

"As the country moves towards equal opportunity for all, how will our youngsters use these opportunities? They might be too illiterate to get any responsible positions," the Sowetan said, reflecting concern among parents over increasingly disastrous black examination results.

Molokoane cited his months without pay in 1982 as an example of the way black teachers are treated by the white-run bureaucracy.

"During my many trips to demand payment, I was told that the reason for the delay was that all cheques were made in Pretoria and it takes a while before all papers could be processed," Molokoane said such treatment continues.

Other complaints are that teaching posts are suddenly suspended, teachers are laid off or transferred without consultation, timetables are congested with staff members having to teach 40 periods a week.

"The authorities dismiss black teachers'

protests as politically inspired. A strict grievance procedure has to be followed excluding direct communication with senior officials.

Molokoane, a father of three, said that by tolerating this system, teachers had been losing credibility with their pupils.

"We became a discredited lot, seen by students as custodians and promoters of inferior education."

Molokoane said there are so few textbooks teachers have to spend precious time writing notes on the blackboard.

"For geography, because there were no globes, I had to use a soccer ball," he said.

Black teachers want a living wage, a cut in class sizes and teaching loads, more textbooks and equipment.

The strikers demanded a minimum wage of 1,200 rand (\$500) a month plus a 500 rand (\$220) rise across the board, which would bring them nearly into line with white teachers.

A first-year black teacher with a university degree and teaching diploma earns 1,500 rand (\$650).

"We could no longer contend with unsolved grievances such as poor salaries,

bureaucratic difficulties in arranging payments for housing bonds, study leave, transfers and conflict between teachers and authorities which were building up," Molokoane said.

Most schools are equipped only with desks and blackboards. There are no science laboratories or libraries.

Molokoane, who lives in an unfurnished four-roomed bungalow, says he has never taught less than 70 pupils a class.

"No matter how much one tries, one will never get a 100 per cent pass rate," he said.

About 21 billion rand (\$9 billion) is needed to attain parity between white and black education, the education policy unit of the University of the Witwatersrand estimates.

The government says it is committed to eventual equality but that such sums are not available. It has been reluctant to take resources away from white schools to give to black ones.

Educationalists say that a growing black school population means this demoralising situation is going to get worse.

Souq Midhat Pasha

Fragrance of spices dulls sense of time

DAMASCUS, (Reuters): Trapped in the stillness of a narrow cobbled street off Damascus's Souq Midhat Pasha, the spice-laden air dulls sense of time.

In the old camel yard, merchants negotiate prices for precious powders, fresh scented leaf, delicate petals, pulses, roots and plants brought from the Syrian countryside, China, India, Sri Lanka and Singapore.

For 750 years, traders have come to the cool courtyard in Damascus to sit and barter in leisurely fashion.

The "Khan Al Tutun," caravanserai became a centre for the trade in tobacco, brought through savage desert heat some 1,200 km (750 miles) from the Iraqi border.

"A caravan of about 15 laden camels would arrive here weighed down with tobacco. It was off-loaded into these stores and the owners stayed in the rooms upstairs," said Basharr Rankosi, the 32-year-old owner, pointing to small barred windows overlooking the yard.

"After the owners left with their camels next day to find loads to take back to the cities and villages, more merchants came to buy tobacco... the leaf was auctioned in the yard," he said.

For the past 120 years, the Rankosi family has run the yard's mill where spices — now brought by aircraft, lorry and small truck — are crushed, refined and sold to big wholesalers and small

individual buyers.

The brilliant whites, greens, mustards and blacks reflect a wealth of scents and spices — broken wheat, for use in traditional milk dishes and as a bleach, coriander, chervil, carnation, cumin, aniseed, black caraway, camomile, dried flowers and whiskers of corn.

Cascading down the old stone wall, hang strings of "ladies' fingers," the dried green vegetable okra, used in winter, like dried tomatoes and eggs plant, when fresh crops are unavailable.

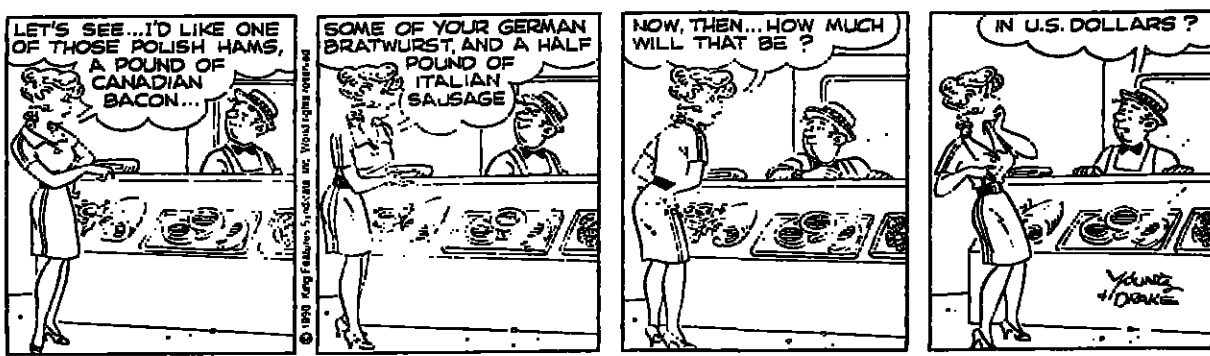
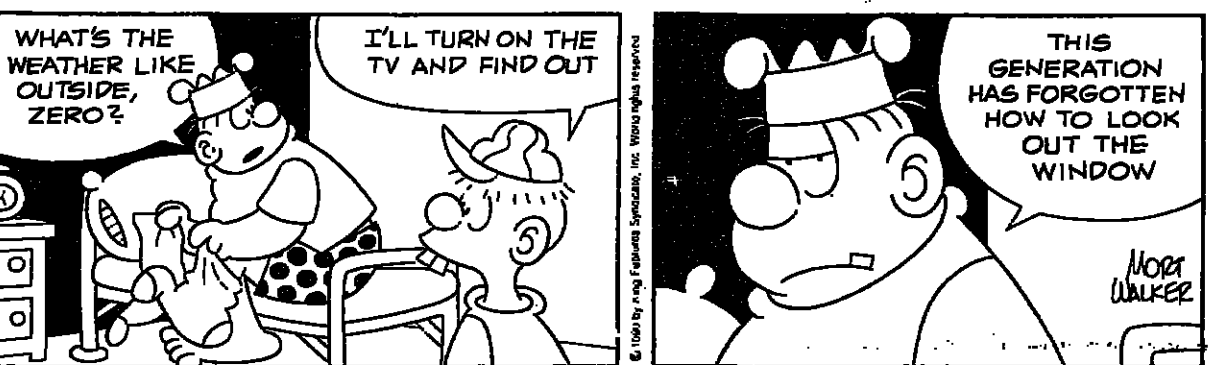
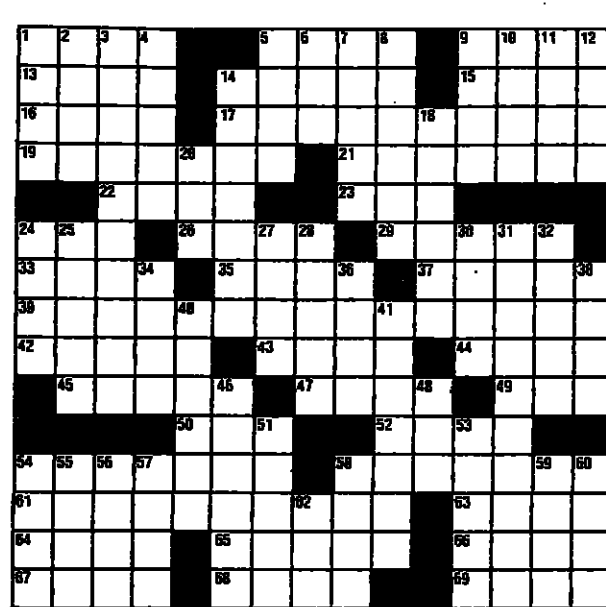
Parts of the graceful Gothic-style arches, rising 10 metres (30 feet) to three open-topped domes over the courtyard, were restored by the Tourism Ministry three years ago.

"They paid 75 per cent of the cost and we paid the rest, and they provided expertise in restoring the ancient atmosphere," Rankosi said.

The result shows little sign of modern workmanship and changes wrought over previous years are unobtrusive. Electricity has replaced water to provide power for the milling machinery hidden in dark rooms off the yard.

Rankosi's 82-year-old father, who worked the mill for 65 years, still acts as occasional consultant.

"I have been coming here since I was five, playing and helping where I could. I never did much at school, this was always what I wanted," Rankosi said.

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake**HAGAR THE HORRIBLE** — By Dik Browne**AGATHA CRUMH** — By Bill Hoest**BEETLE BAILEY** — By Mort Walker**THE WIZARD OF ID** — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart**ANDY CAPP****B.C.** — By Johnny Hart**HE-MAN** — By G. Forton & J. Shull**TODAY'S CROSSWORD**

- ACROSS**
- Large number
 - High-pitched sound
 - Desert attire
 - Entertainer
 - Adams
 - Transparent
 - Ness, for one
 - "Damn Yankees" girl
 - Oster
 - Chest of drawers
 - Narrowed down
 - At hand
 - Compass dir.
 - Explosive
 - initials
 - Skiers' lift
 - Pass a law
 - Love seat
 - Yale students
 - Mores
 - "The Little Mermaid," for example
 - Keepsake
 - Mild oath
 - Comic Johnson
 - Smudge
 - Dutch treat
 - Purpose
 - 50 — cent: trifle
 - Sodas
 - One — in single file
 - Moe and mates
 - Funny lady
 - Small brook
 - go brag
 - Walk on
 - Combo of a sort
 - Decorate again
 - Ooze
 - Piece of wood
- DOWN**
- fast; persevered
 - Aroma
 - Valentino vehicle
 - Make fun of
 - Norse god
 - Comparative ending
 - Robins'
 - residences
 - John Travolta movie: 1978
 - Mont Blanc, to the French
 - Certain S. African
 - Land measure
 - Herring's relative
 - Frozen dessert
 - Key
 - Convened
 - Nicholas II
 - Roman calendar day
 - Out of the wind
 - Range of hills
 - girl!
 - Broadway
 - gypsy
 - Street sounds
 - Friend, to Henri
 - Marine fish
 - Snick — for one
 - Mile
 - Made suitable
 - Sends money
 - Bovine comment
 - Plow maker
 - Harbors
 - Maple genus
 - down: razed
 - Among
 - clock scholar
 - Cinch
 - A literary Lamb
 - Place for a coin
 - Born

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

SPAWN SKEW AWAY
TALLIA TIRE GALE
AVAST! ERGS ASIA
NORTH DAKOTA HAS
FARM EGOIST
LACONA BROWN
AXEL CAISE REGAL
VIN MONTANA TRI
ASTRO TYRO BOIL
ETUDE MEANLY
VENEER PALL
ANN SOUTH DAKOTA
UNIT WRAY PANEL
LUAU SAUL SNARL
TILT ELSA ESSAY

GOREN BRIDGE**TAKE THE BETTER ODDS**

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

A

J 10 8

K 9 8 4 3

Q J 4 3

WEST

J 7

Q 7 5

A Q 7 5 2

9 8 6

EAST

K 10 5 3

K 9 6 4 3 2

10 6

5

SOUTH

Q 9 8 6 4 2

A

J

A K 10 7 2

The bidding:

North East South West

Pass Pass 1 Pass

2 Pass 2 Pass

2 NT Pass 4 Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of

More often than not, logic, rather

than mathematics, is what's needed

to find the winning line. How would

you play four spades after West

leads the ace of diamonds and shifts

to a heart?

We are not thrilled by the auc-

tion. North had a difficult decision

at his second turn, and two no

trump was an acceptable compro-

mise. Although South could reason-

ably expect to find two spades in

dummy, that's hardly an excuse for failing to show his good five-card club suit. Looking only at the North-South cards, we would rather be in six clubs than four spades! Be that as it may, your problem is to make 10 tricks in a spade contract.

Since the only side-suit loser is a diamond, declarer's problem is to lose no more than two trump tricks. If trumps split evenly, declarer cannot lose more than that unless the defenders can negotiate a club ruff. However, the most likely division is 4-2. Given that, how should South tackle trumps?

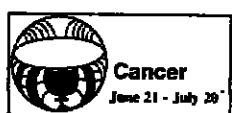
There are two ways. Declarer can win the ace of hearts, cash the trump ace and return to hand with a club to lead a low trump, hoping to find either defender with a doubleton king. The other method is to lead the queen of trumps, with the idea of pinning a secondary trump honor in either defender's hand.

You do not need calculus to tell you which is the better line. For the first to succeed, declarer needs to find one specific card, the king, doubleton. The alternative works if either the jack or ten is doubleton. The odds in favor of the latter are twice as good as playing for a doubleton king and, by following the percentages, South gets home.

**YOUR STARS****Aries**

March 21 - April 20

If you have fallen behind you should concentrate on catching up. You will have to deal with a nuisance, but not allowing yourself to get flustered will enable you to do so. Do not rely on luck to get you out of trouble. Be moderate.

**Cancer**

June 21 - July 20

Even if not everything is the way you would like it to be, you will be able to make the most of what is. Something you have learnt recently will now stand you in good stead. Do not become too reliant on mechanical and electronic devices. Be objective.

**Libra**

Sept 23 - Oct 22

There will not be time to do all you would like to do, so do what is most important first. Avoid making too much noise and seek to avoid noisy environments. Ensure others understand what you mean, do not just assume they do. Be matter of fact.

**Capricorn**

Jan 20 - Feb 19

When you say you are too old to learn, what you really mean is you do not want to. You should be aware of your limitations whilst seeking to overcome those you feel you can. But do not try to move a mountain. Avoid concerning yourself with secondary matters.

**Taurus**

April 21 - May 20

You should try to avoid doing anything that would annoy those close to you. Some small tensions should be dealt with before they become serious. Do not insist on having your own way in all or even most things. Be less selfish.

**Leo**

July 21 - Aug 21

Even though you have the wind in your sails you may still be heading the wrong way. So do check your course and make alterations if required. Leave as little as possible for another day. Be considerate.

**Scorpio**

Oct 23 - Nov 22

You should not be hostile to change but do not change things just for the sake of change. Do not think that because you have learnt how to use one device you can automatically use another. Try to avoid distractions. Be sensible.

**Aquarius**

Jan 20 - Feb 19

You should do your best not to introduce complications into a difficult situation. Do not think you are the only one who is having problems, you are not. There is a trap for those who are too glibly, so watch your step. Be sincere.

**Gemini**

May 21 - June 20

Only if you persevere will you succeed but you will surprise yourself if you do. Your lucky numbers are 14 and 32. Now it is not the time to sit back and contemplate what you have achieved. Do not attempt to evade the issue. Be friendly.

**Virgo**

Aug 23 - Sept 22

If you try to progress too rapidly with what you are learning you will not succeed. Instead, you should seek to progress more slowly but more surely too. And do not think that you are beyond teaching aids. Be truthful.

**Sagittarius**

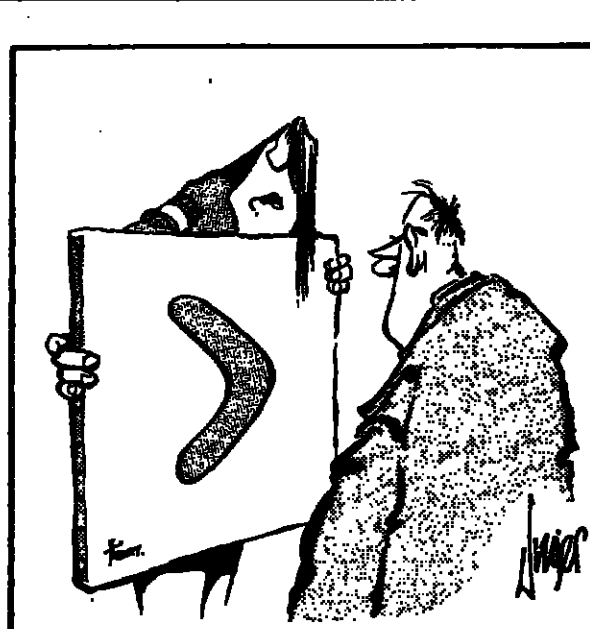
Nov 23 - Dec 21

You should not leave until later something you well know ought to be done now. Do not lose sight of your objectives, but do re-examine them. If you try to use force where persuasion has got you nowhere you will fail. Be reliable.

**Pisces**

Feb 20 - March 20

Try to avoid eating in such a way that you will have to take drastic steps to gain or lose weight. Constant is better than fluctuating in this case. Do show a little more goodwill towards and compassion for others. Be tactful.



"This is one I did on my trip to Australia."



"Let me know if you ever need a good defense lawyer."

Competence and experience needed to manage change

Eastern Europe has a long way to go

By Philippa Neave

WASHINGTON, D.C. (WNL): Although Eastern Europe only recently exploded onto the world's TV screens, some experts in Washington have been quietly watching the region for decades, waiting for something to happen. Suddenly, those experts who were paid to think and analyse the situation in Eastern Europe are coming to the fore, because it's time to act.

Ironically, the foundations and think-tanks considered most conservative are the ones being asked for advice by countries whose politics used to be at the other end of the political spectrum. One such think-tank is the Heritage Foundation, a privately funded policy research institute. Seven of the foundation's researchers recently returned from the Baltic states (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) all annexed by the USSR at the time of World War II, where they had been doing out advice to top officials on how to transform a one-party dictatorship with a centrally planned economy to a multi-party democracy operating a market-driven economy.

Among the advisers was Stuart Butler, a senior economist with the foundation and a privatisation expert. "We had dealings with people in power as well as opposition groups," said British-born Butler of his trip to Estonia. "We gave decision-makers, from the prime minister down, practical advice on how to achieve economic change within a political framework. We were focusing on transition and the constraints that they as politicians would have."

The tasks facing leaders in the Baltic and Eastern Europe states are colossal, but, he said, not fundamentally different from past situation in some Western European countries. Butler cited the case of Britain's Margaret Thatcher, who in the early 1980s forced considerable changes in that country's economy. The "Iron Lady" earned her nickname by shutting down outmoded, debt-ridden heavy industries and by privatising large state-run concerns. Said Butler, "The old heavy industries were just sink-holes for subsidies. The shipbuilding industry in Scotland was shut down. For a year or so there was panic and mass unemployment, but now the area is called Silicon Glen. The same people who worked in production-line jobs have been retrained in light electronics industries."

Though what happened in England can serve as a model, Butler said, it will take some time to overturn the pervasiveness of state rule in the economic affairs of Eastern Europe. Citing the Baltics as an example, he added that the key lies in creating a small-business sector. "As all East bloc countries, the Baltics have a significant underground economy of black-market entrepreneurs. We talked about how to let the small-sector flourish and become a major segment of the economy."

One of Butler's colleagues at the foundation, policy analyst Douglas Seay, 33, who was also in Estonia, argued that thought patterns will have to change first. "The Eastern Europeans could preside

The tremendous interest Eastern Europe has generated in the West has led to fears in other parts of the world that investments will be drained away from the developing nations.



Conservative think-tank analysts like Stuart Butler (right) and Douglas Seay have become highly regarded advisers to the new East European governments.

over a rapid change of their economies if they get over the notion of wanting to plan that change too much. Get rid of the bureaucracy, get it out of the way of the entrepreneurs," he commented.

The notion of competition as a positive and stimulating force is generally alien to most Eastern Europeans, Butler noted. "I found it was like talking to intelligent people who had never been exposed to economics before." In the food and services industry, for example, he said, people could not understand that there is no need for a bureaucracy to control restaurants: bad ones will fold just because they won't have any customers.

To manage change, the question is not so much one of competence as of experience, Butler said. "Economists in Eastern Europe are essentially supply managers. They get a quota from Moscow and their basic job is to distribute it effectively, in a sense, they are transportation specialists."

Many Eastern Europeans are pinning their hopes on foreign investment, particularly from the European Economic Community (EEC), to revitalise their economies, and they have called on experts like Butler to help them learn how to make their economies more attractive to Western businesses. But, says the policy analyst, that is not the ultimate answer. "Eastern Europe has tremendous potential and these countries look upon foreign investment as their salvation, but I don't know any country in the world that has developed on that basis. The only way is to create wealth domestically. We tell them they have most of the tools at their disposal to create their own wealth and lift themselves out and it's a surprise to them."

The tremendous interest Eastern Europe has generated in the West has led to fears in other parts of the world that investments will be drained away from the developing nations. Both Seay and Butler argue that those fears are unfounded. Said Butler, "There is a lot of fascination for Eastern Europe, but conditions there are still not as favourable as the political euphoria might suggest."

Eastern Europe has a long way to go before investors are satisfied that reforms are effective enough to guarantee financial returns. "Business people contact me, but they have no idea what they're getting into, they just see new markets opening up," Seay explained. "They see Eastern Europe and the USSR — 400 million people — and automatically see 400 million customers. Added Butler, people with experience in

dealing with markets in the developing world are very unlikely to suddenly turn away from Africa and Asia. "They simply won't ditch all their experience and contacts to throw their dice into Eastern Europe," he said, noting that initially the East bloc will attract mostly "fly-by-night entrepreneurs looking for quick returns."

Clearly Eastern Europe is looking to the EEC as the key to the future. "They all want to get into Europe (the EEC) before it closes up," Seay said. "They all seem to fear that the walls are going to go up and that they will be shut out. The northern tier countries — Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland — want to join the EEC as soon as their economies will allow. The quest is emotional as well as practical. It's Europe, something they want to be intricately connected with and never again separated from. In a sense, people feel they are reclaiming their birthright."

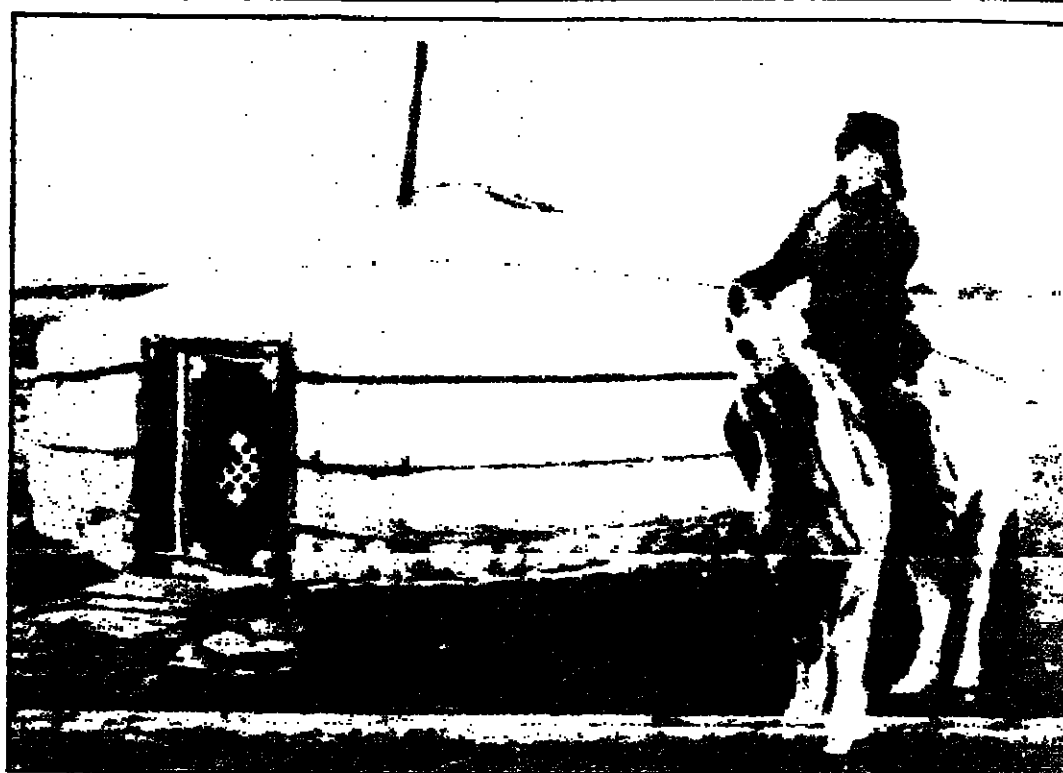
The future structure of the EEC is a topic of hot debate within the EEC itself. Whatever form a new community takes, membership for the Eastern European countries will almost certainly require a preliminary period of loose association. In the meantime, according to Butler, the days are numbered for the East bloc's own trade association, Comecon. "It is shattered," he said, but it may not die overnight. "They have so many common problems, they need some kind of vehicle to allow them to negotiate as a bloc. Individually, they have so little leverage that they have to co-operate."

"It is Western Europe that is going to have to start thinking how it is going to deal with these countries," he added. The EEC has already taken one major step toward helping its Eastern neighbours. In mid-January the 12 EEC members, plus 14 other developed nations, including the US and Japan, and eight Eastern European states met to set up the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (known by its French acronym, Berd) to help build a private sector in Eastern Europe. Berd will make loans to countries that are moving toward both a market economy and a multi-party political system.

The two experts at the Heritage Foundation had mixed feelings about the need for the Berd. "Britain and the US want the bank to lend exclusively to the private sector, while France and other countries want to include loans to governments who claim that investments in infrastructure will be necessary," Seay said, recalling the failed policy of the 1970s, when the West collectively sank more than \$80 billion into Eastern Europe: the money went to waste and those countries were saddled with unserviceable foreign debt.

Butler expressed strong reserve on principle. "Any device of this nature has all the dangers of the large scale foreign aid bodies. They are used to prop up policies that may need to be cleared away... If you're getting plenty of foreign money and funding, it becomes easier not to make painful choices."

Concluded Seay: "It is a mixed blessing. It could be more damaging to certain countries than doing nothing, especially if it becomes politicised and is used to reward friends and punish enemies."



A young Mongolian herdsman astride his horse pauses near a 'ger', a round felt tent on the plains of northern Mongolia. More than 40 per cent of Mongolians are herdsmen.

Herdsman of Mongolia wait for winds of change

By Arthur Roberts

TSETSERLEG, Mongolia. (Reuters): The winds of change may be sweeping the halls of power in Mongolia's capital Ulan Bator, but so far they are only breezes on the wide plains of Arkhangai.

Lying in the middle of vast and semi-isolated Mongolia, the province of Arkhangai is the centre of its vital horse-breeding industry. Its wide open spaces are also home to countless sheep, yaks and camels.

One hour's plane ride from Ulan Bator, Arkhangai's capital Tsetserleg has not been entirely cut off from Mongolia's political reforms, but the effect so far has been less momentous.

There have been three pro-democracy demonstrations here since January. "It's right to have reform, but it should come faster," said a provincial official.

He said there was 100 per cent support for economic and social reforms among the people of Arkhangai.

The Communist Party is trying hard to retain its nearly 70-year hold on power, after giving in to demands for elections by a democracy movement eager to free Mongolia from years of control by its powerful neighbour, the Soviet Union.

The communists face the newly-born democratic opposition parties at the polls in late July.

One major demand in the provinces has been for higher wages for Mongolia's herdsmen, many of whom earn less than 100 tugriks (\$4) a month.

The ruling Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party promised a wage rise for them at its extraordinary congress two weeks ago.

But reform is still out on the horizon for Arkhangai shepherd Sagov, who lives a couple of hours by horse from Tsetserleg.

"Not many of the shepherds know about the events in Ulan Bator," Sagov said. "I've heard a little, but haven't seen any benefit yet." The 53-year-old Sagov, his wife and the youngest

of his five children live in a "ger" — a round felt tent better known outside Mongolia by its Russian name "yurt".

The family's cosy home on rolling hills dotted by his herds is next to the pen where they keep the early spring's batch of more than 200 lambs.

Sagov's three-year-old grandson was chasing the animals in the pen while the adults were dining in the ger, picking up by hand joints of boiled beef from a common pot and cutting off pieces with hunting knives.

Homemade mare's milk liquor and stuff were passed around.

Shepherd's like Sagov and two of his sons are being cultivated by the communists, eager to hold on to their rural voting base in a country of only two million people where 40 per cent of the population are herdsmen.

Where once the shepherds could keep only 50 sheep in their flocks, the communists recently declared there would be no limit. For the Sagovs, this could mean a lot of extra money.

But the family does relatively well already, earning 300 tugriks (\$12) a month caring for the nearby co-operative's 200 sheep. They also earn about 700 tugriks (\$28) a month producing wool and dairy products from their private flocks.

For all of this relative affluence, they continue to live in the virtually cost-free way of their ancestors.

The sheep graze the vast open plains, the ewes nurse their lambs, and the Sagovs live on food and clothing from their sheep. They distill their own drink.

Money is spent only on finished goods brought at the town store and carried home on horseback.

When it's time to move to richer pastures, the ger is dismantled and loaded on horses in about two hours.

Then the family gallops off to their new home, anywhere from 15 to 100 km (10 to 60 miles) away from Tsetserleg.

Handsome doesn't do it in the movies anymore

HOLLYWOOD. (UPI): There was a time in the movies when all the leading men were handsome and all the leading ladies beautiful.

From the 1930s through the 1950s the beautiful people ruled the screen. The plain people played character roles.

That's why Clark Gable, Tyrone Power, Gary Cooper, Errol Flynn, Robert Taylor, Henry Fonda and the rest snared the great roles. There were occasional exceptions, of course, like Spencer Tracy and Jimmy Cagney, but as a rule handsome ruled.

That all changed in the early 1960s when movie moguls discovered that guys with big noses, close-set eyes and receding hairlines were just as acceptable and maybe even more believable than Adonis.

Among today's stars, the Clint Eastwood and Paul Newman types are aging and in somewhat short supply. They are giving way to leading men who are not collar ads: Jack Nicholson, Dustin Hoffman, Al Pacino, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Robert Deniro and dozens of others.

No longer can a film audience immediately identify the hero by his appearance, although there remain such throwbacks as Tom Cruise. A good example of casting against type is evident in "Wild Orchids," a dramatic love story starring beautiful former model Carrie Otis. If you had seen the film 30 years ago you immediately would have spotted Bruce Greenwood as the leading man because he is clean-cut, personable and drop-dead handsome.

By the same token, you just as quickly would have identified Mickey Rourke as the greasy-haired villain.

Wrong. Rourke, who has trashed his way to stardom looking like five miles of unpaved road, is the hero and the bad guy is Greenwood, who last month appeared in the TV movie "Summer Dreams: The Story of the Beach Boys" in the role of drummer Dennis Wilson.

In the heyday of studio contract lists Greenwood would have been built to stardom by a system that fostered the practice of finding good-looking guys who could act and pushing them into top pictures. But it hasn't been that easy for Greenwood, a Canadian with 15 years of acting experience on stage, in TV and movies.

Inasmuch as he's not the star of "Wild Orchids" and Rourke is, Greenwood did not see the picture until it was released. Although the film was completed almost a year earlier, he had no idea how his performance turned out.

"I'm anxious to see it," he said. "It's been a long time and I am very curious. This has happened to me and other actors many times before. You hope they have edited the picture so it will serve you. I didn't even see dailies while we were in production, so I



Clark Gable: handsome

have no idea how my performance came off or even how much of it is left in the picture.

"You never can tell how different the finished film will be from the script you worked on."

"Whether an actor sees his work while the picture is in progress depends on the director. Sometimes he will make actors part of the process. Sometimes he feels actors are best kept away from watching their work."

"I'm always disappointed when I see a film long after its completion. It's not so much about what they've cut as what I've done or failed to do."

"Good actor can see a scene and determine whether he did his job as well as he could or what alternatives he might have been taken to make it more interesting or explicit."

Greenwood was especially curious about how much of his epidermis was exposed in a steamy nude love scene he plays with Otis.

Before seeing the film, friends told Greenwood they were surprised to see so much of him on the screen.

"It made me wonder about that scene," he said. "You never know how far they will go with that sort of thing."

While Greenwood would like to attain stardom, he finds himself playing as many bad guys as good guys. Thus far he has yet to find that breakaway role in a major film.

Perhaps it's the price these days for being a hunk.

New approach to reach health for all by 2000

GENEVA. (Reuters): Twelve years ago the World Health Organisation (WHO) set itself the goal of health for all by the year 2000.

With just 10 years left, the ambitious target is unlikely to be met, judging by horrifying statistics on health conditions in the Third World issued in recent days by the UN agency.

Nevertheless the Geneva-based body is trying a new approach that it hopes will succeed in at least improving the lot of the developing world.

The figures speak for themselves. In the world's least developed countries only one child in seven can hope for basic immunisation, one in eight dies before its first birthday, and one in five does not reach the age of five.

Each year, half a million women die from causes linked to lack of elementary care in pregnancy and childbirth.

Five million children under the age of five die of diarrhoea while malaria kills one million, mostly children, and 800 million men, women and children are subsisting in poverty, malnutrition, hunger and disease.

This last figure is close to the combined populations of the United States, the Soviet Union and the European Economic Community.

The catalogue of Third World health woes is endless. "And the problem is getting worse as a result of an unbridled population growth," says Michel Jancloes, a Belgian who heads the WHO's International Co-operation Division.

Speaker after speaker at an annual meeting of WHO members under way in Geneva denounced the blatant health inequalities between the haves and have-nots as a scandal.

WHO officials have cited a host of reasons for this sorry situation, including rivalries between donors, duplication of effort, resources spent on advanced technologies benefiting only small minorities and lack of permanent access to health care in remote areas.

Few have offered solutions. Yet they exist, Jancloes told reporters on Wednesday during a break in the two-week Geneva meeting attended by health ministers from all parts of the world.

He said that for the past 18 months his department had been quietly working to improve health conditions in 14 of the world's poorest nations, most of them in Africa.

"The basic idea is that we first ask these countries to outline to us possible plans of

action based on what they see as their priorities," Jancloes said.

In the short term, programmes would consist of speeding up the control of diseases such as meningitis, malaria and tuberculosis and boosting supplies of equipment and essential drugs, Jancloes said.

In the medium term, the WHO, with financial backing from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, would help develop these countries' human resources and health sectors.

In the longer term, the UN agency

would supervise their health programmes and correct whatever mistakes were made.

"The money is available and there is a \$70 million programme for Guinea, for example," Jancloes said.

The problem was that the West African nation did not have the human resources to put the programme into effect.

"More or less the same applies to all 14 countries included in the programme and this is where we come in, supplying the technical expertise to put them on track," he added.

The programme includes Bolivia, Chad,

Ecuador, Ghana, Malawi, Nepal and

Sudan and will later be expanded to five others.

Jancloes said African leaders were awakening to the fact that a major proportion of health aid supplied in the past had been misused and that mistakes had to be corrected.

Asked whether he thought the WHO's new scheme would help it meet its goal of health for all in the year 2000, he replied: "I don't care much for slogans, there are problems that simply have to be addressed."

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Dutch win women's World Cup hockey title

SYDNEY, May 13. (Reuters): The Netherlands won their third successive women's World Cup hockey title today, scoring a convincing 3-1 victory over the Olympic champions Australia in the final.

For the Dutch, who conceded only one goal in the seven games of the tournament, it was sweet revenge for Australia's semifinal victory over them in Seoul.

Their controlled display of strength and skill reaffirmed Dutch dominance of a sport in which they have won five out of seven World

Cups.

Top seeds Australia, playing in their first World Cup final, looked tired despite the vocal support of the home crowd and were unable to counter the Dutch women's mastery of the short corner which earned the third seeds two goals.

Sweeper Lisanne Lejeune opened the scoring after only eight minutes when, from a short corner, she slammed the ball just inside the left hand post past the despairing dive of Australian goalkeeper Maree Fish.

It was Lejeune's eighth goal, six of which came from short corners, making her the event's top scorer. She was voted Player of the Tournament.

The Netherlands' second goal, one of the best of the competition came after Witske de Ruiter slipped round three defenders before flicking the ball past Fish from an acute angle near the goal line.

To their credit Australia struck back immediately to score the first goal the Dutch had conceded. From a penalty corner in the

39th minute Rochelle Hawkes flicked the ball over the Dutch defence. It hit the underside of the bar and bounced down just over the line.

The Dutch snuffed out Australia's hopes 11 minutes later after another penalty corner. Helen van der Ben slotting home under Fish's body to score their 19th goal of the tournament.

South Korea added a World Cup bronze to their Olympic silver medal, coming from 3-0 down after just three minutes to beat England 3-2.



Lakers' A.C. Green (left) tries to stop Suns' Dan Majerle. (Reuters wirephoto)

Suns outclass Lakers

PHOENIX, May 13. (AP): Tom Chambers scored 11 of his 34 points during a third-period rally, and Jeff Hornacek had a career playoff-high 29 as the Phoenix Suns beat the Los Angeles Lakers 117-103 yesterday for a 2-1 lead in their NBA playoff series.

Chambers, 4 in the best-of-7 Western Conference semifinal was this afternoon at the Arizona Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

Phoenix has never beaten the Lakers in six previous playoff series, getting swept in three of them.



Suns' Tom Chambers (left) lays up a shot over Lakers' James Worthy. (Reuters wirephoto)

Saturday's victory was the Suns' first at home over the Lakers in a playoff game since a 135-127 overtime win on May 18, 1984. It also was Phoenix's largest margin of victory against the Lakers in the playoffs since the Suns 127-101 on April 13, 1980.

Kevin Johnson had 22 points for Phoenix, while Mark West added 14 points and three blocked shots.

James Worthy paced Los Angeles with 27 points. Magic Johnson added 22.

Chambers scored 26 points in Phoenix's 102-102 win in game 1 at Inglewood, California, but only nine in a 124-100 loss in game 2 on 4-of-11 shooting.

He hit 14 of 23 field goals yesterday and almost matched his career playoff-high of 41 points, set last May 26 in a 122-117 loss that gave the Lakers a 4-0 sweep in the conference finals.

Spurs 115, Trail Blazers 105

Terry Cummings scored 35 points as the fast-breaking San Antonio Spurs rolled to a 115-105 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers and leveled their playoff series at two games each.

Game 5 of the best-of-7 Western Conference semifinal switches on Tuesday night to Portland, where the Blazers won the first two games 107-94 and 122-112. San Antonio won at HemisFair Arena 121-98 on Thursday night.

Spurs centre and Rookie of the Year David Robinson scored 21 points, but it was Cummings who provided the offensive firepower as the Spurs overcame an early nine-point deficit to rout the Blazers for the second consecutive game.

Clyde Drexler led Portland with 27 points, 20 of them in the first half. Jerome Kersey added 23.

Results

Eastern Conference

N.Y. Knicks 111 D. Pistons 103 (Detroit leads series 2-1)

Western Conference

Phoenix Suns 117 L. Lakers 103 (Phoenix leads series 2-1)

S.A. Spurs 115 P.T. Blazers 105 (Series tied 2-2)



Knicks Patrick Ewing jumps over Pistons' John Salley. (Reuters wirephoto)

Australia beat Pakistan

Waqar Younus gets hat-trick

NEW YORK, May 13. (Agencies): Dean Jones hit seven sixes and scored 79 of Australia's 152 runs in 28.2 overs yesterday, leading Australia to a five-run victory over Pakistan in a rare one-day exhibition match as part of the North American Cup, a promotional cricket tour in the United States.

David Boon scored 31 runs in the match, shortened to 30 overs from the normal 40 because heavy rain earlier in the week had damaged the field.

Pakistan bowler Waqar Younus got a hat-trick, getting Dean Jones

out in the first ball of the last over, failing to win by six runs.

"It was an experience," Australian captain Boon said in a major understatement.

The result was a small measure of revenge for Australia for their recent defeat by Pakistan in the Australasia Cup.

The match was played on a pitch made by stretching a brown hessian cloth over the grass. Hazards for fieldsmen included a board several cms high encircling the running track which was in the field of play.

The ball rarely rose above waist height and bowlers used only a run-up of several metres. With short boundaries there were plenty of sixes.

But the fans, 3,000 of them instead of the 20,000 expected, loved it. Pakistani spectators outnumbered Australians 10-1.

There were Americans present but only in the call of duty. Policemen, food vendors and cleaners spent most of the day trying to catch a glimpse of baseball games in a nearby park or with a perpetually bemused expression on their face.

"Did you guys ever think of

playing this game on horseback," one New York policeman asked.

At the end, the crowd roared and the policeman yawned.

Bob Pritchard, the brave Australian promoter, hopes next year to add the West Indies and India to the fun.

Many players looked at the match as one to enjoy.

"It's a great holiday to get away, very relaxing," said Imran Khan, generally considered the world's best all-round cricketer player.

"Last year when we were in Toronto some of the boys went to see Niagara Falls, sightseeing at Disneyland when we were in California. It's sort of a paid holiday."

Some expatriates from the West Indies, British Commonwealth nations and the Indian subcontinent enjoyed the game.

"This is great, but there should be more to promote the game in the US," said Lauchman Misra, who has lived in the United States for seven years since arriving from his native Guyana. "This is our pastime."

Misra arrived 1 and 1/2 hours before the scheduled first ball and sat in the front row of Downing Stadium, a 22,000-seat football arena on the East River's Randall Island, opposite home of the old New York Cosmos soccer team.

"This isn't enough," said Misra. "We should get a minimum of six international matches a year."

Misra attended the match with two friends, both originally from Guyana, including one who travelled 1,200 miles (1,920 kilometres) from West Palm Beach, Florida, for the occasion.

Cricket gets virtually no publicity among the general media in the United States, although there are pockets of interest among ethnic groups that hail from cricket-playing nations.

The opportunity to see top-level cricket was a rare opportunity for

the next two batsmen.

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Pakistan rallied when Rameez Raja scored 53 and found late support from Salim Yousef, who added 50.

But Pakistan, which won the Australasia Cup two weeks ago over a field of five other nations, including World Cup holders Australia — were hurt when captain Imran Khan was held to 14, bowled by Merv Hughes, followed by the unnecessary run outs of Javed Miandad and Wasim Akram.

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Bob Pritchard, the brave Australian promoter, hopes next year to add the West Indies and India to the fun.

Many players looked at the match as one to enjoy.

"It's a great holiday to get away, very relaxing," said Imran Khan, generally considered the world's best all-round cricketer player.

"Last year when we were in Toronto some of the boys went to see Niagara Falls, sightseeing at Disneyland when we were in California. It's sort of a paid holiday."

Some expatriates from the West Indies, British Commonwealth nations and the Indian subcontinent enjoyed the game.

"This is great, but there should be more to promote the game in the US," said Lauchman Misra, who has lived in the United States for seven years since arriving from his native Guyana. "This is our pastime."

Misra arrived 1 and 1/2 hours before the scheduled first ball and sat in the front row of Downing Stadium, a 22,000-seat football arena on the East River's Randall Island, opposite home of the old New York Cosmos soccer team.

"This isn't enough," said Misra. "We should get a minimum of six international matches a year."

Misra attended the match with two friends, both originally from Guyana, including one who travelled 1,200 miles (1,920 kilometres) from West Palm Beach, Florida, for the occasion.

Cricket gets virtually no publicity among the general media in the United States, although there are pockets of interest among ethnic groups that hail from cricket-playing nations.

The opportunity to see top-level cricket was a rare opportunity for

the next two batsmen.

Pakistan got off to a slow start in their innings, as Australia's Terry Alderman took three wickets in his four overs for only six runs.

Pakistan rallied when Rameez Raja scored 53 and found late support from Salim Yousef, who added 50.

But Pakistan, which won the Australasia Cup two weeks ago over a field of five other nations, including World Cup holders Australia — were hurt when captain Imran Khan was held to 14, bowled by Merv Hughes, followed by the unnecessary run outs of Javed Miandad and Wasim Akram.

Pakistan was finally all out for 147 in the first ball of the last over, failing to win by six runs.

"It

Seward gets Player of the Season award

CASUALS Cricket club held their AGM on Thursday evening wherein next year's officials were elected and this year's stars honoured.

Top honour went to Ron Seward who was voted Player of the Season. His contribution to the team consisted of being top run scorer with over 600 runs at an average of 38, and top wicket taker with 28 victims. Ron was also elected as next year's club captain after Simon Clements stepped down.

The Bowler of the Season award went to Richard Snowden. Richard has shown a new

zest this season and bowled superbly to claim 22 wickets. Batsman of the Season was John Arton-Powell who, in his first season with the club, has scored over 400 runs at an average of over 32. Dave Short was adjudged the Best Fielder in the team.

The departure of the British Ambassador left the club without a president but hopes are high of persuading the new Ambassador to continue the tradition in this area. In addition a new chairman was required after Val Tudball

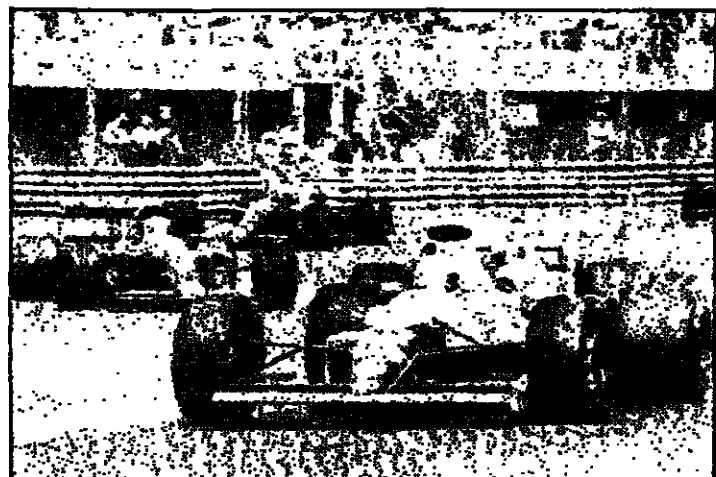
decided to move on and the club is lucky in having Peter Bond to suitably fill the vacancy. Other officials elected were John Arton-Powell as vice-captain and press secretary, Adi Selvaratnam as social secretary, Nigel Tatham as team secretary, and Peter White as treasurer.

Presentations were gratefully received by Kevin Wells (for leaving Kuwait), Fiona Seward (for services to the club), and Mr and Mrs Selvaratnam (for style in delivery). Simon Clements gave his captain's address

and pinpointed the tremendous contributions to the club from players like Nigel Tatham and Peter White. The added power by the arrival of the elegant Andrew Pinno and the solid John Arton-Powell were highlighted along with the equally important contributions from Lorraine Bond. The team's mixed bag of success was noted as a general inconsistency brought several high points and low points. The outgoing captain was then thanked for his contributions, particularly for his efforts in arranging the last two successful tours.

Patrese wins San Marino GP

Senna, Mansell fail to finish



Patrese leads the pack during the race. (Reuters wirephoto)

IMOLA, Italy, May 13, (UPI): Italy's Riccardo Patrese, driving his 1990 Formula 1, piloted his Williams to victory in the San Marino Formula One Grand Prix today ahead of Austrian Gerhard Berger in a McLaren Honda.

Patrese passed Berger on the 51st lap, 10 laps from the end of the 191.034 mile (307.440 km) race.

It was his first victory since South Africa 1983.

Berger had led from the 18th lap, when he took over from Patrese's teammate, Belgian Thierry Boutsen, who pitted with a mechanical problem.

Pole sitter Ayrton Senna of Brazil went off on the fourth lap

when a broken rear wheel rim resulted in a flat tire.

Nannini had to hold off a strong challenge from world champion Alain Prost of France in the closing laps.

In doing so, he set the fastest lap time on the penultimate lap, clocking one minute 27.156 seconds, an average speed of 126.988 mph (208.178 kph).

Prost finished fourth to earn three world championship points.

The sister Ferrari of Briton Nigel Mansell, which had run second to Berger in the middle of the race, went out with engine failure.

Standings

Drivers' championship (after three

rounds):
1. Ayrton Senna (Brazil) McLaren 13 points
2. Equal: Prost 12
3. Equal: Berger 12
4. Patrese 9
5. Alesi 7
6. Equal: Thierry Boutsen (Belgium) Williams 6
7. Equal: Piquet 6
8. Nannini 4
9. Nigel Mansell (Britain) Ferrari 3
10. Stefano Modena (Italy) Tyrrell 1
11. Satoru Nakajima (Japan) Tyrrell 1

World constructors' championship:

1. McLaren 25
2. Equal: Ferrari 15
3. Equal: Williams 15
4. Benetton 10
5. Tyrrell 8
6. Brabham 2



United's Paul Ince (right) and Steve Bruce (left) try to squeeze out Palace's Geoff Thomas during Saturday's game. (Reuters wirephoto)

Robson puts United first

LONDON, May 13, (Reuters): England captain Bryan Robson will miss his country's World Cup warm-up against Denmark on Tuesday to concentrate on helping Manchester United to victory in their FA Cup final replay against Crystal Palace.

"I'd sooner be playing in a Cup final than in a friendly game for England. Getting a draw today and a replay is more important at the moment," Robson said after yesterday's enthralling 3-3 extra-time draw.

Team mate Neil Webb will also miss the England game presenting a problem for manager Bobby Robson who may have to select him for the World Cup without having seen him play for his country since last September.

Webb has missed five successive internationals since rupturing his Achilles tendon against Sweden.

It was Robson who headed United's first goal yesterday levelling the score after underdogs Palace had gone ahead through Gary O'Reilly.

Welsh international Mark Hughes then put

United in front, but Palace came thundering back through substitute Ian Wright, who scored barely three minutes after coming on in the 69th.

Wright, playing his first match since breaking the same leg twice in the space of three months, proved himself the star of south London when he put Palace ahead in extra time.

Hughes saved the day for United with the final equaliser 11 minutes later.

Despite Wright's heroics, Crystal Palace manager Steve Coppell is likely to start him on the bench again on Thursday.

Coppell is still not convinced the striker is fit enough to last a full 90 minutes and is happy with the way the rest of the team played.

"I've got to think long and hard about my team and my tactics before Thursday but at the moment I would be inclined to keep it as it was," he said.

Manchester United, who unlike debutants Crystal Palace are looking for a seventh FA Cup win, are likely to make some changes.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Table tennis

TABLE TENNIS tournaments, in connection with the celebrations for the 400th anniversary of Hyderabad, have been scheduled from Monday, May 14 to Wednesday, May 16 in Jeeb Al Shuyoukh. Matches will be played from 6.00 pm to 9.00 pm. All registered players must be present at the venue at 6.00 pm on May 14 for the draws. Directions for reaching the venue: Take the first U-turn after the Jeeb Al Shuyoukh police station, turn first right and look for a new three-storey building in the open ground. For further details contact: Dr Naidu (4842578), Faried (4763438) or Tazher (4330694).

Italian Open

ROME, May 13, (Reuters): John McEnroe's withdrawal from the men's Italian Open tennis championships has compounded the woes of organisers of the event starting here tomorrow. In contrast to the high profile women's championship concluding this weekend, the men's event was deemed from the outset of the world's top four ranked players.

W. German soccer

BONN, May 13, (Reuters): West German soccer clubs Waldhof Mannheim and Homburg were relegated after finishing the season at the bottom of the First Division yesterday.

49 arrested

LONDON, May 13, (Reuters): English football, its image battered by last weekend's crowd violence, received a welcome boost yesterday when the soccer cup final ended with only 49 people arrested for minor offences.

Penalty shoot-out

GLASGOW, May 13, (Reuters): The Scottish Football Association yesterday defended the penalty shoot-out which gave Aberdeen a 3-2 victory over Celtic in the Scottish Cup and said the scheme could be extended to semifinals.

Kim triumphs

SEOUL, May 13, (Reuters): Kim Bong-jun of South Korea retained his World Boxing Association (WBA) minimum weight title today when he fought with Silverio Barcenas of Panama who was stopped in the fifth of the scheduled 12 rounds.

Yugoslav team

BELGRADE, May 13, (Reuters): Yugoslav soccer coach Ivica Osim today named 15 definite players for his World Cup soccer squad in Italy. He said he would choose the remaining seven next Sunday after the end of the Yugoslav League Championship.

African handball

RABAT, May 13, (Reuters): Jeunesse Sportive Al Bida retained their African Handball Club Cup last night by beating Mouloudia d'Alger 21-20 (half-time 8-7) after extra time in an all-Algerian match.

Sotomayor wins

HAVANA, May 13, (Reuters): Cuban high jump world record holder Javier Sotomayor, returning to international competition after a knee injury, showed the world he was back in business by clearing 2.32 metres last night to win the Havana Barrientos Memorial Event. "I had planned to jump around 2.30 metres, I jumped 2.32, so I'm all the happier," Sotomayor told Reuters.

English playoffs

LONDON, May 13, (Reuters): Results of English Football League semifinal play-off first leg matches today:

Division Two			
Blackburn	0	Swindon	2
Sunderland	0	Newcastle	0
Division Three			
Bolton	1	Notts County	1
Bury	0	Tranmere	0
Division Four			
Cambridge	1	Maidstone	1
Chesterfield	4	Stockport	0

Yugoslav takes Italian Open title

Seles routs Navratilova

ROME, May 13, (Reuters): Yugoslavian 16-year-old Monica Seles crushed top seed Martina Navratilova 6-1 6-1 to win the Italian Open women's tennis championship in spectacular style today.

Third-seeded Seles never allowed the American — more than twice her age — to settle down and she dominated the court with her fast and accurate two-handed game.

For Navratilova it was her third final in five appearances at a tournament she has never managed to win. For Seles it was a remarkable debut at the clay court event.

Seles, winning her fourth tournament final in succession, extended her current unbeaten run to 20 matches and now looks the biggest threat to world number one Steffi Graf of West Germany, an absentee here, for the French Open title later this month.

The fragile-looking Yugoslav dropped only 14 games in five matches as she powered her way to victory here.

Navratilova had won her three previous clashes with Seles on a carpet surface — the last time in Washington in February by 6-3 6-0.

"I'd never played her on clay before," Navratilova said. "The ball was very heavy and any good serve came right back. I was always playing catch-up."

Seles's consistency demoralised Navratilova. "I didn't play my very best but I was really consistent today," the

Florida-based Yugoslav said.

Seles broke Navratilova in the opening game, helped by two double faults, and she allowed the American former world number one to hold serve only in the third game.

Seles went 4-1 up with two brilliant passing shots as Navratilova, eight-times Wimbledon champion, tried but failed to make her presence felt at the net.



Seles (right) and Navratilova with their trophies. (Reuters wirephoto)

Wells leaving Kuwait

THIS month sees the departure from Kuwait of one of Casuals key batsmen, Kevin Wells, who is emigrating to Canada to take up a position with his wife.

Kevin has been Casuals regular opener during the past four years and his aggressive style of play has been one of the major factors contributing to Casuals improved performances. Although primarily a front foot player, and one of the best exponents of the off-drive ever seen in Kuwait, he is equally capable off the back foot, with the cut in front of square and the pull being his most effective strokes. 1987-88 was Kevin's best season, when he scored more runs than any other Casuals player, and in 1988-89 his aggregate was second only to Ron Seward.

He is also an excellent gully fielder and last season was top of the Casuals catching tally. This year a cruel back injury has severely limited his appearances and Casuals form has suffered as a result. He was still able to score a memorable 42 against CK and to play a significant part in several games, including two of Casuals three victories over Hubara. Kevin has contributed greatly to Casuals C.C., both on and off the field, and all members and families wish him and his wife success and happiness in the future.

Nahil best

NAHIL AKEL was named Player of the Year when the Hubara Centre Bridge Club held its 1989-90 End of the Season Tournament, under the direction of Nahil Akeel, on Friday. Cups and prizes were presented to the Players of the Year. Narendra Shah occupied the second position while Nahil Akeel finished third and Beatrice Pereira fourth.

In the End of the Season Tournament, the results were as follows:

N/S
Sharing first: J. Gajjar & K.T. Simon and M. Merchant & M. Zafar
3rd. Sankar Reddy & Dhruva Mukherjee
4th. Abdul Ghani Shellaby & Saad Elsaid

E/W

1. Nahil Akeel & Narendra Shah
2. Mamdoub Sabri & Peter Harris
3. Beatrice Pereira & Aubrey D'Souza
4. Santos Aurora & Ravi Sapre

Cup veterans could outshine newcomers in Italy

LONDON, May 13, (AP): While soccer standouts such as Holland's Ruud Gullit and Marco van Basten and Uruguay's Ruben Sosa await their debuts in the World Cup finals, there are some players who have seen it all before.

Take England's 40-year-old goalkeeper, Peter Shilton, who made his domestic League debut in 1965, the year after Van Basten was born. First played for his country when the Dutchman was 7 years old and kept goal in the 1982 World Cup in Spain.

There is a cluster of other 1990 stars who saw World Cup action eight years ago as well as in Mexico in 1986. Some of them could outshine the World Cup newcomers when the tournament begins next month in Italy.

Diego Maradona's breathtaking skills helped Argentina to World Cup glory in Mexico. Four years earlier, he suffered from inexperience in Spain and got sent off against Brazil.

The dazzling striker has rediscovered his form at club level to help Napoli regain the Italian League title this season.

Italian defender Giuseppe Bergomi collected a World Cup winners' medal in 1982 at age 18 when Italy beat West Germany in the final. Now a veteran of 50 international appearances, he will be gunning for a return of the title on



Peter Shilton

home soil.

Alongside Shilton on England's side in 1982 was midfielder Bryan Robson and centre-back Terry Butcher, who also will line up in Italy eight years later.

Belgium's long-serving midfielder Jan Ceulemans, now 33, is set



Diego Maradona

to play in Italy eight years after some classy performances in the 1982 championships.

And Safet Susic, 32, returns to the World Cup stage after playing during Yugoslavia's last appearance in Spain. Now a midfielder with French side Paris Saint

Germain, Susic has refound his form after being out of favour at national level.

In the Soviet lineup in Spain was goalkeeper Rinat Dasayev, who now plays for Spanish club Sevilla and will be between the posts for his national team in Italy.

Rated one of the world's best goalkeepers over the past decade, Dasayev, now 32, also was the Soviet's first choice goalkeeper in Mexico.

The Soviets' 1990 lineup is likely to include influential midfielders Vassily Rats and Alexandr Zavarov from that 1986 side.

World Cup holder Argentina and England are two sides that have kept faith with established players from World Cup to World Cup.

Of the 1986 trophy-winning side, Maradona could be joined in Italy by goalkeeper Nery Pumpido, midfielders Jorge Burruchaga, Sergio Batista, Ricardo Giusti, defender Oscar Ruggeri and even striker Jorge Valdano.

Valdano retired after the 1986 championships after suffering from hepatitis but has attempted a comeback at age 34.

Robson, 33, now is England's captain and midfield strongman although he is prone to injury.

Striker Gary Lineker, top-scorer with six goals at the Mexico championship, has rediscovered his touch with 26 goals for Tottenham Hotspur.

And winger John Barnes, who disappointed four years ago, now has the additional ingredient of experience gained by seasons of success with Liverpool. He scored 28 goals this season to lead the

English League.

Shilton, who has played 115 times for his country, is hoping to beat Northern Ireland goalkeeper Pat Jennings' world record of 119 appearances.

Brazil, one of the favourites in Italy and a three-time winner, will have midfielders Alemao and Silas, defender Branco and strikers Muller and Careca from the 1986 team that was beaten on penalties by France in the quarterfinals.

Alemao, 28, and Careca, 29, are two more of the Napoli side that won the Italian title and are in sparkling form.

Spain's goal-scoring wizard Emilio Butragueno is back from the 1986 squad.

In contrast to the English, Brazilians and Argentines, West Germany has made significant changes since its 1986 final defeat.

It will depend heavily on midfield playmaker Lothar Matthaeus, who plays in Italy for Internazionale di Milan, and his clubmate Andreas Brehme. Both were on the lineup that lost to Argentina four years ago.

Uruguay's indiscipline proved costly in 1986 and few players survive. But Enzo Francescoli, its talented forward who has starred for French club Olympique Marseilles this season, has cooled his temperament and has the ability to lift the side.

Marseille keep title

PARIS, May 13, (Reuters): Marseille's millionaire boss Bernard Tapie set off a fireworks display at his club captured the French League title for the second year in a row.

His expensively assembled collection of stars did not exactly produce a fireworks display to match, beating modest Caen 1-0 thanks to a 33rd minute goal from midfielder Philippe Vercruyse after a cross by striker Jean-Pierre Papin.

It was a muted performance from the leaders who were without suspended full-back Manuel Amoros and sweeper Carlos Moller who is training with the Brazilian World Cup squad.

But it was enough to give Marseille the title they deserved as rivals Bordeaux lost all hope with a 1-0 defeat in Nice, where the home side's Luxembourg striker Robby Langers sprang their offside trap as early as the sixth minute.

With only one match to go, Marseille are now four points ahead of Bordeaux. It is their sixth French championship and gives them the chance of a second successive double.

They are odds-on favourites for the French Cup in which they face struggling Racing Paris in the semifinals in two weeks. The winners will meet either St Etienne or Montpellier in the final.

Results	
Lille	2 St Etienne
Lyon	1 Auxerre
Marseille	1 Caen
Metz	2 Cannes
Montpellier	0 Monaco
Nantes	3 Mulhouse
Nice	1 Bordeaux
Racing Paris	1 Brest
Sochaux	1 Toulon
Toulouse	4 PSG

Beckenbauer names team

BONN, May 13, (Reuters): West German national team manager Franz Beckenbauer yesterday announced the following squad of 23 from which he will select his final 22 for the World Cup soccer finals:

Goalkeepers — Raimund Aumann (Bayern Munich); Bodo Illgner (Cologne); Andreas Korpke (Nuremberg).

Defenders — Klaus Augenthaler (Bayern Munich); Juergen Kohler (Bayern Munich); Hans Pflueger (Bayern Munich); Stefan Reuter (Bayern Munich); Thomas Berthold (AS Rome); Andreas Brehme (Inter Milan); Guido Buchwald (VFB Stuttgart); Paul Steiner (Cologne).

Midfielders — Uwe Bein (Eintracht Frankfurt); Holger Fach (Bayer Uerdingen); Thomas Haessler (Cologne); Pierre Littbarski (Cologne); Guenther Hermann (Werder Bremen); Lothar Matthaeus (Inter Milan); Andreas Moeller (Borussia Dortmund); Olaf Thon (Bayern Munich).

Strikers — Juergen Klinsmann (Inter Milan); Frank Mill (Borussia Dortmund); Karlheinz Riedle (Werder Bremen); Rudi Voeller (AS Rome).